DEERFIELD, Ill., and TOLEDO, Ohio, January 18, 2017 – In honor of its exemplary commitment to improve the health and well-being of its community, ProMedica has been recognized as one of three national finalists for the 2016 Foster G. McGaw Prize for Excellence in Community Service. As a finalist, ProMedica will receive $10,000 to be used in support of its community health initiatives.

The Foster G. McGaw Prize is sponsored by the Baxter International Foundation, the American Hospital Association (AHA) and its not-for-profit affiliate Health Research & Educational Trust. First awarded in 1986, the prize recognizes the achievements of hospitals and health systems and inspires strong partnerships that significantly improve the health and well-being of their communities.

“ProMedica is dedicated to developing partnerships and implementing programs that help residents in its region reach their fullest potential,” said John O’Brien, chair of the Foster G. McGaw Prize Committee. “Their innovative programs address not only the health, but also the basic needs of people and the primary causation of disease to make a lasting impact for the individuals they serve.”

As part of a recent community health assessment, ProMedica identified the increasing obesity rate as a major concern, as it contributes to chronic health conditions among residents. Hunger was also identified as a significant issue contributing to poor health
outcomes, with Lucas County in Ohio, the most populated county in ProMedica’s service region, citing nearly 20 percent of the population as being food insecure.

“We are very honored to be recognized as a national finalist in the Foster G. McGaw prize for our efforts to improve health and well-being across the regions we serve in northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan,” said Randy Oostra, ProMedica president and chief executive officer. “For years, ProMedica has been actively engaged in addressing basic needs and all health determinants. Community reinvestment and revitalization is critical for the future of all those we are privileged to serve, and ProMedica’s work will continue to extend beyond our four walls, addressing the needs that impact a person’s overall quality of life. As a mission-based organization, we take this responsibility very seriously and will continue to raise awareness and take a leadership role in improving health outcomes across our region.”

“We are grateful to the Foster G. McGaw prize committee for recognizing our efforts as a national finalist and look forward to reinvesting the dollars from this effort back into the communities we serve,” said Barbara Petee, Chief Advocacy, Diversity & Government Relations Officer. “We are more devoted than ever to our mission and will continue to expand our advocacy efforts and community partnerships to make a greater impact locally and throughout the region we serve.”

ProMedica is a mission-based, not-for-profit healthcare organization serving northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The 12-hospital system has more than 15,000 employees, 2,100 physicians with admitting privileges, and more than 800 healthcare providers employed by ProMedica Physicians. Among other programs, ProMedica was recognized for the following community service initiatives; including:

- **CareNet** – Established in 2002, the non-profit system CareNet collaborates with partner organizations to increase access to coordinated healthcare services for low income, uninsured residents of Lucas County, Ohio. CareNet patients have reduced emergency room visits and increased health screenings and chronic disease management. The program has served more than 27,700 low-income, uninsured residents, and since 2003, more than 500,000 have accessed services such as medications and primary and specialty care.
• **Healthy Conversation Maps®** – In response to the increasing prevalence of childhood obesity, ProMedica developed a series of Healthy Conversation Map® programs with a national learning company. The program, facilitated by ProMedica staff and public health interns, offers free classes to elementary school children and their parents to promote adoption of healthier behaviors related to nutrition and physical activity. More than 5,000 children and adults have benefited from the program since 2009.

• **Come to the Table-Food Reclamation** – This initiative was launched in 2009 to focus on hunger as a health issue. In 2013, ProMedica began a food reclamation project in partnership with the local casino and several hospital sites to reclaim more than 300,000 pounds of prepared but unserved food. The repackaged food is then picked up by a local food bank and distributed to food kitchens and agencies in the area.

“The Foster G. McGaw Prize recognizes healthcare organizations that serve as role models for taking a synergistic approach to improve the health of the people in their communities. This year’s winner and finalists offer wide-ranging programs to meet the needs of their vulnerable populations,” said Stacey Eisen, president of the Baxter International Foundation and vice president, global communications at Baxter. “Through involved leadership, dedicated staff, and community collaboration, they significantly improve the lives of the patients they serve.”

The 2016 winner of the $100,000 Foster G. McGaw Prize is Spectrum Health in Grand Rapids, Mich. In addition to ProMedica, other finalists include Children’s Health System of Texas in Dallas and White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles.

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**The Foster G. McGaw Prize**

Celebrating more than 30 years of honoring excellence in community service, the Foster G. McGaw Prize recognizes healthcare organizations that are committed to community service through a range of programs that demonstrate a passion and continuous commitment to making communities healthier and more vital. The prize, first awarded in 1986, inspires hospitals, health systems and communities to assess and implement programs that improve their communities. For more information, visit [www.aha.org/foster](http://www.aha.org/foster).

**ProMedica**

ProMedica is a mission-based, not-for-profit healthcare organization serving northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan. The 12-hospital system has more than 15,000 employees, 2,100 physicians with privileges, and more than 800 healthcare providers employed by
ProMedica Physicians. Additionally, it offers a health plan, Paramount, which serves 320,000 members including more than 225,000 members in the statewide Medicaid plan. Driven by its Mission to improve your health and well-being, ProMedica offers a full range of diagnostic, medical and surgical specialties in areas such as emergency medicine and trauma, behavioral health, heart and vascular, oncology, orthopedics, neurology, and women’s and children’s services. The health system has been nationally recognized for its advocacy programs and efforts to raise awareness about hunger as a health issue. For more information about ProMedica, please visit www.promedica.org/aboutus.

The American Hospital Association
The American Hospital Association is a not-for-profit association of healthcare provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. Its not-for-profit research and education affiliate, the Health Research & Educational Trust, aims to create new knowledge, tools and assistance in improving the delivery of healthcare by providers and practitioners within the communities they serve. For more information, visit www.aha.org.

About Baxter and the Baxter International Foundation
Baxter and the Baxter International Foundation are committed to saving and sustaining lives and creating healthier communities. Every day, Baxter employees strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people who depend on Baxter products, and in the communities where employees live and work. The company focuses on three core areas including improving access to healthcare; fostering tomorrow’s innovation and serving its communities. Baxter works closely with public and private partners around the world to ensure people have access to the healthcare they need, to develop the next generation of innovators who will lead the way in advancing care, and to create long-lasting impact in Baxter’s communities. The Baxter International Foundation supports initiatives and organizations that make a positive, lasting impact on increasing access to healthcare for the disadvantaged and underserved.