



For Immediate Release

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The Health Plan Donates \$9,000 to Local Charities Through Tree Decorating Contest

WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA – The Health Plan's (THP) lawn is bright with holiday cheer following their inaugural employee tree-decorating competition that was held last night at their corporate headquarters in downtown Wheeling. Nine teams made up of THP employees competed on behalf of local nonprofit organizations all hoping for the chance to win \$3,000, \$2,000 and \$1,000 for the charities they selected. With some help from Santa Claus, President and CEO Jim Pennington announced the top three teams at THP's first Light Up Night event.

In third place was THP's IT and Facilities Management team who won \$1,000 for A Special Wish Foundation with a Grinch-themed tree. THP's Behavioral Health and Pharmacy Services team took second place with an Elf-themed tree, winning \$2,000 for WV CASA Association. Top honors went to THP's ASO team, who won a \$3,000 donation for the Shriner's Hospital with an elaborate Polar Express-themed tree. In the spirit of holiday giving, Pennington announced that all remaining teams would each receive a \$500 donation for the charities they were competing for, which include the American Cancer Society, Helping Heroes, House of the Carpenter and Youth Services System.

"It's been amazing to see the trees come to life in the last week," said Pennington. "It's hard not to feel the Christmas spirit when you consider the commitment and creativity that our staff put in to make this event a success. Each team is a winner in my eyes and I'm excited for all of the organizations who will be benefitting in some way thanks to each team's hard work."

In addition to a tree lighting ceremony, THP employees and their families enjoyed an evening of yuletide fun that included pictures with Santa, holiday music and Christmas cookies. The Health Plan hopes to make this an annual event to celebrate the season of giving and to support the area's vibrant community.

The Health Plan (www.healthplan.org) is a clinically-driven, technology-enhanced, and customer-focused health maintenance organization that manages and improves the health and well-being of its members. Established in 1979, the West Virginia-based company, with offices in Wheeling, Charleston and Morgantown, West Virginia and

Massillon, Ohio has offered a complete line of managed care products and services designed to provide health care systems and clients with innovative health care benefits and plans at a reasonable cost across the mid-Atlantic region and nationally.

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The Health Plan