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Healthy Blue Nebraska Donates Refrigerated Transport Vehicle to No More Empty Pots to Address Food Insecurity in Omaha Metro Area

Healthy Blue gives additional \$25,000 to No More Empty Pots to further its mission of improving self-sufficiency, food security and economic resilience for urban and rural communities

OMAHA – March 21, 2022 – Healthy Blue Nebraska, a leading Medicaid managed care provider, has donated a refrigerated transport vehicle to No More Empty Pots to address food insecurity in high-needs areas in Omaha. The mobile unit will more efficiently support community food relief efforts and emergency food access and crisis situations for struggling individuals and families. Healthy Blue also provided No More Empty Pots with an additional \$25,000 to support innovative local food programming and education to help the community become more self-sufficient and economically resilient. The funding will support expanding access to local, seasonal, and healthy foods to families and individuals in Omaha.

The refrigerated transport vehicle can navigate narrow city streets, especially in older neighborhoods and in inclement weather, which will allow more resources to be delivered in a timely fashion increasing the community impact. No More Empty Pots will now be able to expand their reach to communities across the city by simplifying the process of food transportation.

“Our organization strives to assess the needs of marginalized communities and meet those needs through partnerships, sponsorships, and donations,” said Nancy Williams, President & CEO of No More Empty Pots. “The generosity of, and our partnership with, Healthy Blue Nebraska will allow us to gain more access to available resources and provide healthy locally grown food to members of our community in need. It will also allow us to carry-out our day-to-day operations and outreach more effectively and will release the strain of having to make multiple trips when food and resources need to be transported.”

According to Feeding America, 1 in 9 people face hunger in Nebraska. Research indicates that access to fresh produce and transportation are two of the most common barriers for not consuming healthier food options from those experiencing food insecurity within the Omaha community.

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“This support will help No More Empty Pots feed thousands of additional families across Omaha and help fight food insecurity by expanding access to nutritious foods,” said Dr. Rob Rhodes, Healthy Blue Nebraska President. “Healthy Blue is deeply focused on addressing food security and we believe that food is medicine, and consistent access to nutritious food is an essential part of maintaining good health.”

Healthy Blue Nebraska continues to engage alongside non-profit organizations and other partners as a leading champion for direct community action and food relief initiatives. Healthy Blue’s funding to No More Empty Pots is nearly \$100,000 and will provide better access to nutritious foods in the communities we serve and drive meaningful change.

In 2021, No More Empty Pots distributed a total of 22,656 prepackaged made-from-scratch meals and 6,459 boxes filled with at least five and up to eight different varieties of local produce, to families and individuals of high need in the Omaha metro area. In 2020, over 51,000 meals and over 100,000 pounds of fresh local produce from local farmers were distributed to households in 48 zip codes in Nebraska and southwest Iowa.

About No More Empty Pots

No More Empty Pots (NMEP) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to connect individuals and groups to improve self-sufficiency, regional food security and economic resilience of urban and rural communities through advocacy and action. NMEP’s vision is to support communities in becoming self-sufficient, and food secure through collaboration and adherence to our core values of education, stewardship, and sustainability. NMEP serves youth to seniors providing educational, hands-on and experiential learning. Learn more at www.nmepomaha.org or email info@nmepomaha.org.

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Photo Caption: Dr. Rob Rhodes, Healthy Blue Nebraska President (2nd from left) and Nancy Williams, No More Empty Pots CEO/President (3rd from left) stand beside the refrigerated transport vehicle donated to No More Empty Pots from Healthy Blue Nebraska. They are joined by other staff members of Healthy Blue Nebraska and No More Empty Pots.

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Photo Caption: Dr. Rob Rhodes, Healthy Blue Nebraska President stands beside the refrigerated transport vehicle donated to No More Empty Pots from Healthy Blue Nebraska. Shay Williams, No More Empty Pots Delivery Delivery Driver, is in the driver's seat!