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*Issued as a service to the Northern Michigan  
Health Coalition*

## **OLESON FOUNDATION GRANT SUPPORTS NORTHERN MICHIGAN HEALTH COALITION - PROVIDING ONE STOP ORGANIZATION TO MEET POPULATION HEALTH NEEDS**

**MANISTEE, MICHIGAN** - A \$6,000 grant from the Oleson Foundations is enabling a network of public and private agencies to proceed with steps to operate one of the newest and most progressive health care initiatives in Michigan, if not the nation, the Northern Michigan Health Coalition (NMHC). The Oleson Foundation grant enables the NMHC to accept a grant of \$50,000 from the Blue Cross-Blue Care Foundation, part of a \$190,000 effort to develop the organizational and technology tools to operate the NMHC which will be housed in a facility now being constructed in Manistee County's Filer Township on US 31.

"Fortunately, we were able to make a few small grants in closing out 2012," said Kathy Huschke, Executive Director of the Oleson Foundation. "The Alliance for Economic Success and Manistee County Community Foundation led us to this opportunity where a relatively small grant could make a big strategic difference in the ramp up of a system that will respond to the health and wellness needs of people throughout northern Michigan, from residents to tourists."

"We have nine partners in the Coalition who are dedicated to meeting the needs of our clients through a holistic approach that offers acute and specialty care, dentistry, substance abuse treatment, behavioral treatment, wellness promotion and more," said Ingemar Johansson, Chief Operating Officer of Coalition member Centra Wellness Network. "Our concept is to provide solutions and care for the whole person with an emphasis upon accessibility, affordability, wellness and prevention. By integrating service providers under the umbrella of the Coalition, we are able to realize economies of scale that will provide responsive and best-practice care."

Johansson said that the Oleson Foundation grant will be used to match other funders to develop the governance structure for the Coalition and the information technology resources to receive and send real time information about patients.

"With the support of the Oleson Foundation and our other partners, the Coalition will serve the needs of people from all demographic and social strata, whether insured or not, with the care and treatment they need in a system where costly, time-consuming referrals will largely become a thing of the past, with the needs of patients met within the confines of a single

health care system and building. We believe this will certainly be a new model for rural health care that fits the national health care trend while being instrumental to our economic well being and quality of life," Johansson said.

Coalition partners include: Centra Wellness Network, Crystal Lake Clinic, West Shore Health Center, Northern Michigan Health Services, Michigan Community Dental Clinics, Benzie-Leelanau Health Department, Michigan District 10 Health Department, Catholic Human Services and Area Agency on Aging for Northwest Michigan.

The Alliance for Economic Success and Manistee County Community Foundation have assisted the Coalition in seeking grant support.

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