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| *News Release: Rappahannock Area Health District*1320 Central Park Boulevard, Suite 300, Fredericksburg, Virginia 22401 ● **www.vdh.virginia.gov** |

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**GRANT TO HELP FUND MATERNITY PROGRAM**

**Mary Washington Hospital Community Benefit Fund
Awards $100,000 Grant to the Rappahannock Area Health District**

**(Fredericksburg, Va.)—**In January 2017, the Mary Washington Hospital Community Benefit Fund awarded the Rappahannock Area Health District (RAHD) a $100,000 grant for its “Complicated Obstetrical and High Risk Maternity Care Program.”

RAHD operates a large maternity program that provides outpatient prenatal care to several hundred uninsured or underinsured pregnant women from all five of RAHD’s localities. Many patients have medical or obstetrical conditions which make their pregnancies more complex or high-risk. This grant will provide those patients with the counseling and case management needed during their pregnancies. Lack of this specialized care can result in higher infant and maternal fatalities, higher rates of preventable emergency department visits and hospitalizations, premature births and low birth weight births.

According to Dr. Brooke Rossheim, Health Director of the RAHD, “We are very appreciative of Mary Washington Hospital’s Community Benefit Fund support of the maternity program. The program treats a large number of high-risk patients, and this funding helps ensure these patients receive the care they need. For years, Mary Washington Hospital has been a dedicated partner with the health district to serve patients in need of these services.”

The Mary Washington Hospital Community Benefit Fund provides funding for the obstetric clinicians who staff the maternity program. The RAHD’s maternity clinics serve the residents of Spotsylvania, Stafford, Fredericksburg, King George and Caroline County.

For more information about the many programs offered by the RAHD, visit <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/LHD/rappahan>.

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