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For Immediate Release

Community Health Charities Offers Back to School Resources for Children Living with Chronic Illnesses

Washington, DC (August 11, 2015) – Getting back into a school routine after a long summer break can be stressful for children, parents and caregivers alike, especially for children living with a chronic illness who face tremendous obstacles.

“To get the most from their education, these children need ongoing and coordinated support from their families, schools and healthcare providers,” said Thomas G. Bognanno, president & CEO of Community Health Charities “With the help from the nation’s most trusted health charities, Community Health Charities is able to provide families and school staff the resources and information they need for a safe and successful school year.”

Here are a few Back to School resources from Community Health Charities’ network of nearly 2,000 health charities:

- **ADHD:** NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Health Illness) -
 - [ADHD and School: Helping Your Child Succeed](#) – To better understand how ADHD impacts your child’s school behavior, academic progress and other related issues, it is important to have open communication with your child’s teachers and other key school personnel.
- **Arthritis:** Arthritis Foundation –
 - [School Success](#) – Information for teachers, parents and students helps make the school experience the best it can be for children with arthritis.
 - [Educational Rights & Resources](#) – Whether your child is newly diagnosed or about to enter school, it’s important to know how to obtain the educational assistance he or she may need.
- **Asthma:** American Lung Association –
 - [Basics for Parents](#) – Learn how to communicate with your child’s school about medications and other issues.
 - [Back to School with Asthma Checklist](#) – When your child has asthma, the beginning of a new school year can be especially challenging. Follow this checklist to make an [asthma action plan](#) and more.
 - [Open Airways for Schools](#) – This program teaches children with asthma ages 8-11 how to detect the warning signs of asthma and avoid their triggers.
- **Autism:** Autism Speaks –
 - [7 Steps to Prevent Wandering at School](#) – If your child has a tendency to wander, it is critical to address wandering issues in his or her IEP.

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- [Back to School: It's Transition Time](#) – These resources can help ease stress and smooth the transition for your family.
- **Cancer:**
 - St. Jude Children's Research Hospital –
 - [School Program](#) for children undergoing treatment, school can offer a familiar and reassuring routine. This program provides opportunities for children to continue normal educational activities and includes hospital-bound, homebound and re-entry services.
 - City of Hope –
 - [School Re-Entry](#) is an important and exciting milestone for many children, teens and young adults who take a medical leave of absence from school. This program helps patients adjust more quickly to the classroom upon returning to school.
- **Childhood Obesity:** Alliance for a Healthier Generation –
 - [The Healthy Schools Program](#) works with teachers, staff and parents to turn schools into healthier environments. Includes breakfast and lunch recipes, as well as the [Smart Snack Calculator](#).
- **Cystic Fibrosis:** Cystic Fibrosis Foundation –
 - [A Teacher's Guide to CF](#) – It is recommended that you talk with your student's parents and CF healthcare professionals as well.
- **Diabetes**
 - American Diabetes Association –
 - [Safe at School](#) – For a student using insulin, diabetes must be managed 24/7, including the many hours spent at school, on field trips and in extracurricular activities.
 - [Back to School Tips](#) – Sending a student with diabetes back to school, whether it's the first time after a diagnosis or the start of a new school year, requires careful planning and coordination.
 - [Healthy Meals for the New School Year](#) – An assortment of healthy recipes that are diabetes-friendly.
 - JDRF International –
 - [Back to School: Strategies for Success](#) – About one in 500 young people has type 1 diabetes. There are many things parents can do to build a team that will prevent their children from feeling alone while managing their diabetes at school.
 - [T1D in School](#) – Good communication and planning are essential to managing a child's type 1 diabetes at school. Educate yourself with resources that support families and students.
 - [Preparing for College](#) – Diabetes can present new challenges during your college years, so it's important to form a relationship with your school's Office of Disability Services.
- **Eye/Vision:** Prevent Blindness America –
 - [Star Pupils](#) Millions of children in need don't have access to proper vision care. This program gives parents the information they need to protect their children's eyes at school and at play.
 - [Eye Patch Club](#) - A fun and supportive program for families during a child's amblyopia patching treatment.

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- **Mental Health:** Mental Health America –
 - [Back to School](#) – This time can be particularly unnerving and overwhelming for children who are facing transitions, such as starting a new school.
 - [Talking to Kids about School Safety](#) – Knowing how to talk with your child about school safety issues can be critical in recognizing and preventing acts of violence, and will play an important role in easing fear and anxieties about their personal safety.
 - [Bullying and Gay Youth](#) – A study found that 31 percent of gay youth were threatened or injured at school in the last year alone.
 - [Boost Your School Performance by Taking Care of You](#) – Taking good care of your body and mind can make a difference in how well you do in school and how well you manage change.
- **Multiple Sclerosis:** National Multiple Sclerosis Society –
 - [Managing School-Related Issues](#) – A guide for parents with a child or teen living with MS.
 - [Students with MS & the Academic Setting](#) – A handbook for school personnel that serves as a quick reference about children living with MS.
 - [Pediatric MS: Partnering with Your Child's School](#) – A video that talks about children with MS and their schools.
- **Tourette Syndrome:** Tourette Syndrome Association –
 - [TSA for Young People](#) - Publications and information particularly for children with TS, plus material that can help educate friends or classmates of children with TS.
 - [TS Education](#) – Materials are designed to help students, parents, families, educators and others understand and manage symptoms of TS in the school setting.
 - [Bullying Prevention & Strategies](#) – Families often contact TSA to share their experiences and seek support. [Stand Up for Tourette Syndrome](#) is a short video about kids and bullying.

For more information and resources for your child and family, visit www.healthcharities.org or call us at 1-800-654-0845.

About Community Health Charities

Community Health Charities improves the lives of people affected by a disability or chronic disease by uniting caring donors in the workplace with the nation's most trusted health charities. Over the past five years, Community Health Charities has raised more than \$400 million to support the missions of the nearly 2,000 charities in our network. For more information about Community Health Charities, visit healthcharities.org or call 1-800-654-0845.

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