FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Foundation awards first scholarship from new endowment honoring
Missoula centenarian Ty Robinson

MISSOULA, MT – Foundation for Community Health, a Missoula-based nonprofit
philanthropic organization, awarded the first high school healthcare scholarship from its new
Ty Robinson Family Endowment during its 27th annual Healthcare Scholarship Awards
Ceremony in May. The endowment, established by Foundation donors in honor of R.H. “Ty”
Robinson, provides funding for professional development and scholarships for Missoula
County high school seniors who intend to pursue a career in a health-related field. Robinson,
who turned 101 in January, was a founder and charter member of the Foundation’s
predecessor organization, Community Medical Center Foundation, and continues to serve as
the Foundation’s Chairman Emeritus.

Robinson has been a civic leader in Missoula and throughout Montana for decades.
Foundation donors and volunteers laud his long tenure of community service and leadership,
and many are among the group of individuals belonging to the Foundation’s R.H. “Ty”
Robinson Legacy Club, celebrating those who have made a planned gift to Foundation for
Community Health. Legacy and non-legacy donors alike came together in spring of 2016 to
fund a scholarship honoring Robinson, and again this year to help raise more than $15,000
thus far to establish the permanent scholarship endowment.

The initial funding for the endowment was secured through sponsorship proceeds from the
2016 Community Cup Hockey Benefit, coordinated each year by local surgeon, Dr. Timothy
Richards and his wife, Tonda. The hockey benefit raises funds to support various health and
safety initiatives of the Foundation, and has also supported Glacier Ice Rink. Foundation
Executive Director, Dorcie Dvarishkis, approached Dr. Richards in the fall of 2016 about the
possibility of directing proceeds from the 2016 tournament to the new endowment.

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“Ty is an amazing man with a history rich in service, stories and insights for all of us,” notes Dr. Richards. “During the Community Cup, we play by ‘Ty Robinson’s Rules’, which bring medical and community people, men and women of all ages, with hockey skills from beginner to darn great, to play hockey and build community. Ty has lived his life as a community-builder and remains so committed to developing quality healthcare providers.”

The recipient of the first scholarship from the endowment is recent Loyola Sacred Heart High School graduate, Bryan Swanson. Swanson recently had the opportunity to visit with Robinson in person.

“He is a smart and captivating storyteller with an impeccable memory,” said Swanson. “What truly stood out was his commitment to the Missoula community.”

Swanson will be attending Colorado College this fall, with medical school in his future plans. Swanson was one of four Premier $2,500 scholarship awardees, while nine additional students received $1,000 scholarships. Scholarships are awarded to applicants who have exhibited a high degree of motivation in school, participated in both school and community service activities, and wish to pursue a career in a health-related field. Scholarship awards are made possible by Foundation donors and scholarship endowments. The Ty Robinson Family Endowment is one of six permanent scholarship endowments held by the Foundation, which also include the Theresa Seiffert Memorial Endowment, Service Master Endowment, Kevin and Margaret Winter Endowment, Patricia and Chuck Douglas Memorial Endowment, and the Dr. John and Nora Evert Endowment.

The Foundation is now exploring the option to establish a healthcare scholarship program for Ravalli County high school seniors. Those interested in supporting future Missoula and Ravalli County high school healthcare scholarships can contact the foundation at 406.926.2522 or visit fchwmt.org/donate-now.

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About the Foundation for Community Health
The Foundation for Community Health (FCH), successor organization of Community Medical Center Foundation, began community-wide operations in January 2015 with a mission of providing philanthropic support for the advancement of healthy lives in western Montana through grant-making and preventative, action-based educational programs. Foundation initiatives include high school healthcare scholarships, leadership of the Safe Kids Missoula Coalition, Be Sun Smart skin cancer awareness, and a health grants program. Foundation for Community Health works in partnership with donors, community organizations and volunteers and welcomes charitable gifts, including planned giving contributions.

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