

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Hampton Proton Receives \$20,000 in Donations to Support Internship Program**

**HAMPTON, Virginia - October 2024** – The Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute (Hampton Proton) is proud to announce that it has received two generous donations—a \$10,000 contribution from the Sterling Legacy Fund and a \$10,000 matching donation from Microsoft—resulting in a total of \$20,000 to support the Hampton Proton Internship Program. These generous contributions will provide stipends for interns from Hampton University and enhance resources and technology for future interns.

The Sterling Legacy Fund, established in memory of Sterling, who tragically passed away on December 23, 2019, from malignant lymphoma, is dedicated to ensuring that no other family endures the same suffering. Sterling was misdiagnosed with sciatica, never receiving the appropriate tests or treatment for his actual condition. This fund aims to prevent such tragedies by supporting minorities in the healthcare field, ensuring they have access to proper testing and care. “We are so excited to announce the Sterling Legacy Fund’s grant to the Hampton Proton Internship Program and are thrilled to have Microsoft match this amount,” said Brigitta Byrd, Human Resources Manager at Hampton Proton. “We are extremely thankful for their support and partnership.”

The Hampton Proton Internship Program provides hands-on experience and mentorship to students pursuing careers in various avenues of healthcare, including radiation therapy, nursing, marketing, administration, human resources and accounting, with a focus on proton therapy and oncology. This program not only enhances the educational journey of these students but also addresses the critical need for diversity and representation within the medical field.

The Sterling Legacy Fund’s mission aligns closely with Hampton Proton. By supporting programs that enable students to attend medical school and by creating scholarships for underrepresented students, the fund aims to cultivate an ecosystem of caring medical professionals who are attuned to the needs of their patients. The Sterling Legacy Fund is a fiscally sponsored program of Athletes Charitable, a division of United Charitable, a registered 501(c)(3). For more details on the Sterling Legacy Fund and its mission, please visit [www.SterlingLegacyFund.org](http://www.SterlingLegacyFund.org).

For information on Microsoft’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please visit [www.microsoft.com/diversity](http://www.microsoft.com/diversity).

**ABOUT HAMPTON UNIVERSITY PROTON CANCER INSTITUTE** The Hampton University Proton Cancer Institute (Hampton Proton) is a leading cancer treatment and research facility dedicated to advancing the fight against cancer. As pioneers in proton therapy and cutting-edge research, Hampton Proton provides compassionate care and precise treatments to patients while driving scientific discovery in the field of oncology. Headquartered in Hampton, Va., Hampton Proton, the eighth such center established in the country, is the only proton center owned and operated by a historically Black college and university (HBCU) and is committed to excellence in patient care guided by innovative research, advocacy, access to care and better outcomes. The institute treats several different types of cancer, including breast, prostate, pediatric, lung, head & neck, ocular, brain & spine and gastrointestinal. For more information, visit [hamptonproton.org](http://hamptonproton.org).

**Media Contact:** Lourdes Hernandez

Multimedia Marketing Specialist II