



DOUGLAS COUNTY
HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Marilyn Carter
Public Health Promotion Program
541-440-3563
mjcarter@co.douglas.or.us

2010 PUBLIC HEALTH HEROES TO BE RECOGNIZED

National Public Health Week is observed every year in April. This year's theme highlights the role we all play in *Building a Healthier America: One Community at a Time*. Douglas County Health & Social Services is celebrating this observance by recognizing those who have demonstrated a commitment to building a foundation for a healthier Douglas County – one community at a time.

The Public Health Hero awards will be presented during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Douglas County Board of Commissioners at 9:00 A.M. on Wednesday, April 14, in Room 216 of the Douglas County Courthouse. The public is invited to attend.

2010 Public Health Heroes Awardees:

Dr. Charles McCart, Mercy Medical Center and South River Medical Clinic

Rural communities often face distinct barriers to healthcare and increased health risks as compared to more urban communities. Dr. McCart is recognized for his commitment to improving access to healthcare in Douglas County, and for his leadership to reduce alcohol, tobacco and other drug use in Douglas County.

Kirstin Carhart, DCIPA and Douglas County Prenatal Clinic

The aim of prenatal care is to detect and prevent potential problems early in a woman's pregnancy. The availability of routine prenatal care plays a part in reducing maternal death rates and miscarriages, as well as birth defects, low birth weight, and other preventable infant problems. Ms. Carhart is recognized for her commitment to reducing barriers to prenatal care for all women in Douglas County, regardless of income or insurance status.

Mercy Foundation / Healthy Kids Outreach Program

Making Douglas County healthier requires action at all levels. The Mercy Foundation is recognized for its long history of giving to improve the health of the people and communities of Douglas County. The Healthy Kids Outreach Program is one example of how the Mercy Foundation is working to improve community health -- one school, one child at a time.

Joseph Lane Middle School Student Council

Where people live, work, play and learn affects how long and how well they live—to a greater extent than most of us realize. Learning to protect the environment through recycling and waste reduction is one the most important lessons we can learn to promote public and environmental health. The Joseph Lane Middle School Student Council is recognized for building a safe, healthy, and sustainable school environment.

Douglas County Fire District 2

Leadership and coordination of resources is the key to minimizing the community impact of a contagious disease. Local Fire and EMS organizations play a critical role in responding to public health threats, such as H1N1. Douglas County Fire District 2 is recognized for taking action to help vaccinate local emergency medical service personnel, fire fighters, and law enforcement to ensure the continuity of Douglas County’s emergency response system.

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Media Opportunity

Public Health Heroes awards will be presented at the beginning of the Board of Commissioners meeting at 9 A.M. on Wednesday, April 14.

Awardees will leave the meeting immediately following the presentation of all awards so that regular business of the Board of Commissioners may resume.

The news media are encouraged to join us in the Courthouse foyer immediately following the awards to interview and photograph awardees.