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Partners Help to Protect the Community

Boulder, Colo. – As budgets are cut and the economy continues to waver, partnership has become even more important in the effort to help Boulder County residents and visitors stay healthy and safe. On Monday, April 6, Boulder County Public Health (BCPH) will honor three community partners for their exemplary work in improving public health in Boulder County.

This year's award recipients are Boulder County Healthy Kids Initiative; Tenzin McClain and Whole Foods Market, Pearl Street; and Longmont Clinic-Joanne Landolt, Director of Nursing, and Jack Campbell, Administrator.

Boulder County Healthy Kids Initiative (BCHK) strives to make sure that every child in Boulder County has health coverage and access to health care. They have a 97% enrollment rate and, in the first ten months of 2009, 1187 children and families were enrolled in health care plans (Medicaid and Child Health Plan Plus) through the work of the initiative.

“The staff does whatever it takes to break down barriers that keep families from applying for benefits,” said Jody Scanlon, BCPH GENESIS and GENESISTER program manager. “Each and every staff member has a “can-do” attitude and goes above and beyond to make enrollment an easy, and even pleasant, experience.

Tenzin McClain and Whole Foods Market, Pearl Street have implemented a mandatory food safety training and an internal inspection system using state-of-the-art technology, third party audits, and consultation with public health. Since 2006, the store's food safety rating has improved from an 'Unacceptable' to an 'Excellent' (2008).

“Tenzin and the Whole Foods Market, Pearl Street, team have been extremely pro-active,” said Katherine Huffman, BCPH Environmental Health Specialist “The key to this successful partnership has been the collaborative spirit and the tenaciousness with which Tenzin and Whole Foods Market, Pearl Street, have worked toward the goal of food safety for the citizens of Boulder.”

McClain and the Whole Foods Market, Pearl Street were also one of the first members of the Partners for Food Safety program, an incentive program aimed at recognizing facilities with excellent food safety practices in Boulder County. McClain has also taken his experience to 11 other Rocky Mountain regional stores and a store in Oakland, CA.

Longmont Clinic-Joanne Landolt, Director of Nursing, and Jack Campbell, Administrator took the initiative to organize free, school-based vaccination clinics during the recent H1N1 pandemic. Working with public health and the St. Vrain Valley School District they established vaccination sites, recruited volunteers, and stored vaccine until there was enough available to proceed with the vaccination clinics.

“Their motivation was mission-based, addressing a recognized need in their community,” said Lisa Widdekind, BCPH Emergency Preparedness Planner. “They always expressed their actions as a response to a community need, even though it could mean less business for the fee-based clinics they were already operating.”

The Longmont Clinic vaccinated approximately 1,000 students in six clinics as well as providing second doses to about 250 children. In total, Longmont Clinic provided close to 9,000 H1N1 vaccines during the response.

The Healthy Community Awards, developed in 2006, recognizes individuals and groups in the Boulder County community that address public health needs and issues. Up to three awards are given annually, and each recipient must have demonstrated the BCPH mission and values in an exemplary way and developed and implemented strategies to improve the health and well-being of the people and environment in Boulder County.

A BCPH employee must nominate community members or organizations, and a review committee of public health leaders selects award recipients.

Awards will be presented at a reception from 2 to 4 p.m., April 6, at 3482 Broadway.

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