



For Immediate Release: June 26, 2006

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Tri-County Health Department Presents Hero Awards

Tri-County Health Department has given their fourth annual “Public Health Hero Award” to four local recipients. The award is designed to recognize an individual, business or agency that has worked to improve public health. Nominees have to be from a field other than public health and were selected by Tri-County Health Department employees. Engraved plaques were presented at a reception on June 13, hosted by Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department. The awards were presented to Lonnie Fallin, D.D.S.; Bebe Kleinman, Executive Director of Doctors Care; Jay Pierce, Principal Planner, City of Aurora; and Greenwood Village resident, Stephanie Steinberg.

For the past five years, Dr. Fallin has been volunteering at Tri-County Health Department to provide free dental services for the Kids In Need of Dentistry (KIND) program, as well as services for senior dental clients in Arapahoe County. Dr. Fallin selflessly volunteers at least one day each week with no reimbursement, which has enabled Tri-County to expand the senior dental services at their Englewood location.

Bebe Kleinman has served as the Executive Director of Doctors Care for the past six-and-a-half years. This innovative nonprofit organization provides health care to medically underserved individuals in south metro Denver, through a coalition of health care providers. Ms. Kleinman’s efforts resulted in a partnership with Tri-County Health Department, Doctors Care

and Swedish Family Medicine, with the three agencies committing to provide prenatal care for ten additional Medicare mothers each month.

Jay Pierce initially developed a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan for Northwest Aurora, but eventually created a master plan that would not only meet planning objectives, but also will improve public health and reduce health disparities. Mr. Pierce received a mini-grant from the Active Community Environmental Task Force of the Colorado Physical Activity and Nutrition Program, and developed a bilingual survey in order to help determine residents' transportation habits and major safety concerns. The Aurora City Council will consider the master plan for adoption at a public hearing in the near future.

Stephanie Steinberg approached the Tri-County Health Department Tobacco Prevention Team four years ago with an interest in spearheading smoke-free air efforts in Greenwood Village. Ms. Steinberg rallied her friends, family and community members to request that the Greenwood Village City Council initiate a smoke-free ordinance. She also gathered signatures outside of libraries and supermarkets, and sent numerous e-mails to City Council members, State Representatives and State Senators, informing them about the hazards of secondhand smoke for business employees and patrons. Ms. Steinberg's dream was realized in the recent passing of a statewide smoking ban, which will take effect on July 1, making Colorado the 13th state in the nation to become smoke-free.

Tri-County Health Department is the largest local health department in Colorado, providing services for more than one million residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. Services include certified birth certificates, immunizations, family planning, women's cancer screenings, nutrition services, West Nile virus prevention, and inspections of restaurants and child care facilities. Extensive information about Tri-County's numerous services is available online at www.tchd.org.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Digital photos attached with e-mail. Captions provided below:

lonnie_fallin.jpg:

(L-R) Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director, and Lynn Trefren, RN, MSN, Tri-County Health Department; Lonnie Fallin, DDS; and Judy Robinson, President, Tri-County Board of Health

bebe_kleinman.jpg:

(L-R) Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director, and Rita Beam, MSN, RN, Tri-County Health Department; Bebe Kleinman, Executive Director of Doctors Care; and Judy Robinson, President, Tri-County Board of Health

pierce_fernandez.jpg:

(L-R) Dr. Richard L. Vogt, Executive Director, and Carol MacLennan, Environmental Policy Coordinator, Tri-County Health Department; John Fernandez, Comprehensive Planning Manager for the City of Aurora, accepting the award for Jay Pierce; and Judy Robinson, President, Tri-County Board of Health

stephanie_steinberg.jpg:

(L-R) Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director, and Nancy Geha, EdD, Tobacco Prevention Program Manager, Tri-County Health Department; Stephanie Steinberg; and Judy Robinson, President, Tri-County Board of Health

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