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Tri-County Health Department Presents Hero Awards

Tri-County Health Department has given their fifth annual “Public Health Hero Award” to three 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 hosted by Richard L. Vogt, MD, Executive Director of Tri-County Health Department.

The awards were presented to the Heritage at Eagle Bend Emergency Preparedness Committee; Maggie Tidwell, Executive Director of Colfax community Network; and the Mountain Vista High School Link Crew.

Heritage at Eagle Bend Emergency Preparedness Committee

The committee developed an innovative emergency preparedness plan for their community that allows for the use of their clubhouse as a short-term shelter, provides storage for emergency supplies, and uses the clubhouse as a temporary clinic or morgue during an emergency. The Committee has developed the first known plan of its kind for a community in the Tri-County area, making Heritage at Eagle Bend a safer place to live. Committee members Bill Lane and Ben Benton accepted the award.

Maggie Tidwell, Executive Director of Colfax community Network

As Executive Director of the Colfax Community Network, Maggie Tidwell provides programs and services which meet the social, medical and physical needs of the children and families residing in motels along Colfax Avenue. Services include an after school program and summer camp; a Parent-Tot Group, which gives parents an opportunity to learn parenting skills;

and a Teen Girls Support Group, led by a licensed therapist, which provides adolescent residents with an opportunity to talk about themselves and the challenges they face growing up in motels.

In addition, the Stout Street Medical Health Outreach Van provides much needed health care on motel premises and the Emergency Walk-In Services program provides food, hygiene items and bus tokens. Motel residents also have access to programs designed to assist in their transition to more permanent housing.

Mountain Vista High School Link Crew

The Mountain Vista High School Link Crew volunteers helped improve public health and the environment by assisting with the Highlands Ranch Household Chemical Roundup. Almost 100 school volunteers helped to process a record-setting number of nearly 900 participants and upwards of 91,000 pounds of household chemical waste for proper disposal. Mountain Vista High School teacher Thomas Sullivan accepted the award.

Tri-County Health Department

Tri-County Health Department is the largest local health department in Colorado, providing services for more than 1,250,000 residents of Adams, Arapahoe and Douglas Counties. Services include disease prevention and control, birth certificates, immunizations, family planning, nutrition services, West Nile virus prevention, and inspections of restaurants and child care facilities. Extensive information about their numerous services is available online at www.tchd.org.

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