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Community Care of NC Leader Recognized for Lifetime Work with NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award

- Focus on Children's Health Statewide for More Than 30 Years -

Winston-Salem, NC – For more than 30 years, Marian Earls, MD, has delivered care to some of North Carolina's most vulnerable patients. Today, she continues to serve them in her role as director of Pediatric Programs for Community Care of North Carolina (CCNC). Because she is a driving force behind CCNC's efforts to improve health outcomes for children across the state, Dr. Earls was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Recognition Award in the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation's 2015 Child Health Recognition Awards program.

CCNC's statewide network includes 1,800 primary care practices that deliver care to more than 1 million children on Medicaid. Among Dr. Earls' many accomplishments are promoting medical homes for children and youth in foster care; working with pediatricians across the state to propel North Carolina to the nation's best rates of developmental screenings for children; and implementing pediatric dental varnishing in primary care, a program that has become a standard across the nation. Her role in improving behavioral health, dental care, foster care, asthma, sickle cell disease, and childhood obesity has positioned North Carolina as a leader in delivering health care to children on Medicaid.

The Awards Program

The awards are designed to showcase exceptional and innovative programs that improve the lives of North Carolina's children. This year's awards focus on programs that address evidenced-based issues of particular significance to the community being served and working in partnership with others to produce sustainable, improved health outcomes for children. Key focus areas include asthma, dental health, environmental health (healthy homes), immunizations, low-birth weight, mental health, nutrition, and substance abuse including drug alcohol and tobacco.

All nominees were recognized and award recipients announced at a ceremony today in Winston-Salem during the North Carolina Public Health Association's (NCPHA) annual meeting. The **Lifetime Achievement Award** is given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to improving children's health services through a series of achievements over a period of time.

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards were established in 1994 to honor local health departments, public health staff and individual citizens for their dedication to improving child health. The awards include monetary grants for educational and other purposes. A Selection Committee of healthcare professionals established by NCPHA chose the award recipients.

Other recipients of the 2015 NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards are:

Individual Recognition

- Maria Clara Laury, Health Promotions Bilingual Program Coordinator, Union County Division of Public Health

Public Health Staff Recognition

- Kelly Warnock, MPH, RD, LDN; Manager, Nutrition Communications and Health Promotions Program, Durham County Department of Public Health

Local Health Department Recognition

- Buncombe County Health and Human Services, Shield of Protection Immunization Program
- Cabarrus Health Alliance, Mobile Dental Clinic
- Northampton County Health Department, Child Health Program

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation supports activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. The Foundation focuses on programs that emphasize the understanding and application of science, health and education at all academic and professional levels.

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