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Wilkes County School Health Program Coordinator Captures NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award

- Sarcanda Green Has Helped Generations of Students -

Asheville, NC – Sarcanda Green, RN, has been with the Wilkes County Health Department for 25 years, and is a key factor in helping generations of students to be healthier and more academically successful. Her attention to detail makes her shine as the Mobile Expanded School Health (MESH) coordinator, and earned her the Individual Recognition Award in the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation’s 2017 Child Health Recognition Awards program.

The MESH program serves about 1,100 students during the school year with sick and preventive care provided at school. MESH offers a wide range of services, including treatment of injuries, immunizations, health education and counseling, health screenings and prescriptions. Nurse Green coordinates sports physicals so students have an opportunity to play sports. Because the students trust her, she is able to serve as a lifeline to students who need health care. Her colleagues call her a true example of a dedicated public health nurse.

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 work in partnership with others to help improve 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 drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

All nominees were recognized and award recipients announced at a ceremony today in Asheville during the North Carolina Public Health Association’s (NCPHA) fall meeting. The **Individual Recognition Award** is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to improving children’s health services through a single effort.

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 2017 NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards are:

Lifetime Achievement Recognition

- Elizabeth Krzysztorska, DDS; Dental Director, Alamance County Children Dental Clinic

Public Health Staff Recognition

- Debbie Biggerstaff, Innovative Approaches Coordinator, Cabarrus Health Alliance

Local Health Department Recognition

- Gaston County Department of Health & Human Services, Substance Treatment And Rehabilitation Program (STAR)
- Guilford County Department of Health & Human Services, JustTEENS
- Madison County Health Department, Madison Substance Awareness Coalition

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 health, science and education at all academic and professional levels.

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