



December 12, 2018  
FOR RELEASE AFTER 12:30 p.m.

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**Chatham Child Care Health Consultant Lauded with  
NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award**

*- Dorothy Rawleigh Cares for the County's Youngest Citizens -*

**Charlotte, NC** – Dorothy Rawleigh’s colleagues consider her the best Child Care Health Consultant in the state. She has brought better nutrition and higher immunization rates to child care centers, and provided training to child care facility owners and staff throughout Chatham County. Her dedication and commitment to better care for children has earned her the Public Health Staff Recognition Award in the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation’s 2018 Child Health Recognition Awards program.

Among her many accomplishments, Rawleigh has energetically worked on partnerships resulting in healthier food at child care centers, higher immunization rates and better emergency preparedness planning for the county’s youngest citizens. She formed a working group with several child care owners, nutritionists and public agencies, and got child care staff excited about healthy food by demonstrating recipes and creating test meals. In the area of immunizations, before she started her job, 62 percent of facilities submitted the required Annual Child Care Immunization Report and just 25 percent of facilities showed all children as up-to-date on vaccinations. Last year, those numbers soared to 100 percent and 96 percent, respectively. Dorothy is viewed as a model public health professional and an inspiration to all who work with her, and those who benefit the most are the children being cared for.

**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 Charlotte during the North Carolina Public Health Association’s (NCPHA) annual fall meeting. The **Public Health Staff Recognition Award** is given to full- or part-time employees or retirees of a local health department in recognition of their outstanding service in preventive health activities in their local community.

Other recipients of the 2018 Child Health Recognition Awards are:

**Lifetime Achievement Recognition**

- Jean Kesler Vukoson, RN (retired), NC DPH, Children and Youth Branch

**Individual Recognition**

- Mindy Turner, DDS; Pediatric Dentist, Stanly County Dental Clinic

**Local Health Department Recognition**

- Chatham County Public Health Department, Immunization Program
- Cleveland County Public Health Center, Virtual Care Clinic
- Granville Vance Public Health, Innovative Approaches

*The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Child Health Recognition Awards program was created in 1994 to recognize excellence and innovation in child health care and to encourage the development of creative, effective approaches in the field of public health.*

*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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