

NORTH CAROLINA



GlaxoSmithKline  
FOUNDATION

# Child Health Recognition Awards Program

September 17, 2014



Celebrating passionate  
advocates, individuals,  
public health staff  
professionals and  
North Carolina Health  
Departments for 20 years.  
We bring you the 2014 Child  
Health Recognition Awards!

*Celebrating*  
**20 YEARS**  
1994-2014

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## Recognizing a Child Health Legacy — for Two Decades and counting

Public health in North Carolina has changed a tremendous amount in 20 years; however, the compassion and dedication of health care professionals has not wavered. The awards are about celebrating the countless hours, the selfless hard work, and the unbridled devotion to children that is demonstrated around the state.

*Celebrating*  
**20 YEARS**  
1994-2014

When this awards program started in 1994, the main objective was helping increase the number of children obtaining vaccinations.

The Child Health Recognition

Awards program still champions health care providers working to help keep our children immunized; however, the program has evolved to highlight an amazing array of other health issues and best practices. There are so many ways each of you demonstrates the passion and commitment needed to keep our children and their families healthy.

Reaching this landmark anniversary for the Child Health Recognition Awards is exciting for everyone at the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation! Thank you for your participation in this program, and thank you for all that you do for current and future generations of North Carolinians.

*To laugh often and much;  
to win the respect of intelligent people  
and the affection of children,  
to leave the world a better place,  
to know even one life has breathed easier  
because you have lived,  
this is to have succeeded.*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson



### Lifetime Achievement Recognition

**Rebecca Freeman, MPH, RD, LDN**  
**Durham County Department of Public Health**

For three decades, Becky Freeman has been a strong, creative and visionary champion of public health, beginning with her early days in food safety and nutrition. Her achievements have long focused on healthier children, from promoting nutrition services for high-risk pregnant women and in child care centers to expanding dental services to high-risk children.

**Jennifer Garrett, RN, BSN, CPN, CSN**  
**Macon County Public Health Department**

Jennifer Garrett has a reputation as a superior school nurse with a “can do” attitude, someone who touches the lives of more than 9,000 students and protects their health from kindergarten to graduation. She has implemented many successful programs, including an annual health fair, immunization clinics, backpack nutrition programs and School Health Advisory Council.

★ **Kevin Ryan, MD, MPH**  
**North Carolina Division of Public Health**

Widely respected as a leader in child and maternal health for the state of North Carolina for the past 23 years, Dr. Kevin Ryan creates evidence-based and outcome focused responses to combat the multitude of issues in the constantly changing public health landscape. As chief of the Women’s and Children’s Health Section, Dr. Ryan’s leadership has had tremendous impact in many areas, his commitment is an inspiration to all who work for healthier women and children as he continues to lead over 1,000 public health professionals across the state.

★ Denotes 2014 award recipients

## Local Health Department Recognition

### Appalachian District Health Department Top Dog Clinic

Ashe Middle School is the home of the Bulldogs and students there refer to their health clinic as the “Top Dog Clinic.” The school-based health clinic started as a mobile unit but expanded to a modular unit, providing primary and preventive physical and mental health care to students. Clinic staff includes a registered dietician one day each week, a pediatric nurse practitioner three days per week, and a registered nurse and medical office assistant five days each week.

### ★ Catawba County Public Health Healthy Schools Recognition Program

In 2011, the Health Department and a community coalition debuted the Healthy Schools Recognition Program (HSRP) to promote healthier environments by improving healthy nutrition and physical activity in Catawba County’s schools. In HSRP’s first year, 16 schools participated and 10 achieved Healthy School recognition, reaching 5,987 students. By 2014, the program’s fourth year, 39 schools attained Healthy School recognition – including 86 percent of the schools in all three local public school systems. The program has inspired similar movements in day care centers and the business community, and is being used as a model program for other North Carolina counties.

### Chatham County Public Health Department Focus on Fathers

Many public health programs offer support and resources for mothers and children, but in Chatham County, Focus on Fathers works with teens through middle-aged men to teach life skills to help them better mentor their children. Group meetings address emotional support and life-skills training needs for the fathers, and promote father-child bonding through recreational and educational activities.

### Cleveland County Health Department School Community Gardens

Got veggies? In Cleveland County, students are answering “yes” now that they have School-Community Gardens at nine school sites. The gardens and school curricula teach students about nutrition, healthy eating, gardening skills, recycling and composting.



### Craven County Health Department Vaccines Clinic

In Craven County, children do not have to come to the clinic for vaccines—the clinic comes to them. Through a partnership with local schools, the Craven County Health Department offers a school-site Tdap and influenza vaccines clinic, which means parents do not have to miss valuable work time and students do not have to miss class time.



### Davidson County Health Department Health Education Division

Two staff members form the Health Education Division, but their outreach spans far and wide across Davidson County. The division provides asthma awareness training, car seats to low-income families, education on reproductive health and safety for students, and drug abuse awareness—touching thousands of children’s lives every year with a message of healthier living impacting entire families.

### Davie County Health Department WIC Program

To promote the message that breastfeeding is best for babies, the Davie County Health Department incorporated breastfeeding staff couplets in its programs, and helps new mothers learn from the success and experience of others. In one fiscal year, breastfeeding rates in Davie County nearly doubled.

### ★ Gaston County Department of Health and Human Services Teen Pregnancy Reduction Program

Becoming a teen mother carries many risks, including that of having a low-birth weight baby. With programs ranging from Teen Outreach to Making a Difference, Making Proud Choices, All4You and Teen Wellness Centers, Gaston County teens learn to set life goals and develop skills to fulfill them. A council of teen advisors and two hired Teen Health Advocates help counsel and coach their peers. In just one year, from 2011 to 2012, Gaston County’s teen pregnancy rate declined 13 percent.

### Guilford County Department of Public Health School Nurse Program

In their quest to promote nutrition and physical activity, school nurses in Guilford County implemented “Smart Health for Fit Kids”. The program lasts for eight weeks and begins with an assembly for all first graders, followed by classroom activities. Classes can earn points for students exercising every day during recess and eating a healthy lunch, and those with the most tokens after four weeks are rewarded with a popcorn party. The teachers and students are enthusiastic about the program, with students encouraging their peers to make healthier diet choices.

★ Denotes 2014 award recipients

### **Madison County Health Department Triple P and Mommy Mondays Program**

Working to combat the high child abuse and neglect issues in the county, the Health Department secured grant funding for the world-wide, evidence based Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) and implemented two additional programs, Mommy Mondays and Parenting Classes complementing the Triple P program. These programs help to build strong families to benefit the mental and physical health of children and the entire community.

### **New Hanover County Health Department Parent Child Interaction Therapy Program**

When young children show extreme emotional and behavioral problems, many parents are at a loss about how to respond. In New Hanover, they are learning specific behavior management techniques that help their child with frustration and anger and improve listening skills through the new intensive program called Parent-Child Interaction Therapy.

### **New Hanover County Health Department Tdap Clinics**

Nurses were noticing that more 6th graders were coming to school without their required Tdap vaccinations, so a team of school nurses in New Hanover County got creative and started reaching out to 5th graders and their families. In two weeks, a team of nurses administered the vaccine to 420 5th graders in 24 elementary schools.

### **Pitt County Health Department Making Pitt's Babies Fit Maternity Fair**

For two decades, the Pitt County Health Department has sponsored a wellness fair to share resources and information with expectant moms and families. The Making Pitt's Babies Fit Maternity Fair started long ago to combat infant mortality, which is the leading cause of child deaths in Pitt County. With dozens of volunteers and nearly 1,000 attendees, the Maternity Fair is helping to ensure that Pitt County's babies get off to a healthy start in life.

### **Pitt County Health Department WIC Program**

What's on your plate? In Pitt County, public health staff answer that question with a program called "What's On My Plate?" to teach parents how to shop and make healthy recipes using Women, Infant and Children's Program funds. Nutritionists provide tips and tasty recipes for breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks to parents and coloring books to children that reinforce the healthy foods message.

### **★ Robeson County Health Department Innovative Approaches Initiative**

The Health Department's Innovation Approaches initiative is building collaborative bridges between children and youth with special health care needs and the agencies supporting these children and families. Based on feedback from the special needs community, Robeson focused on three core themes: recreational opportunities such as organized games and picnics; improved communication with the public school system, including training sessions; and transitions for special needs teens into adult medical care and post-high school life.

### **Surry County Health and Nutrition Center Integrated Behavioral Health**

When public health care providers in Surry County found themselves increasingly confronting emotional and behavioral health issues like depression and substance abuse in addition to physical health issues, they began exploring ways to treat patients for these issues in the same location. After complex planning, a fully integrated behavioral health/primary care clinic opened in the pediatric clinic.

### **Toe River Health District Mitchell Yancey Healthy Families**

When families face significant life challenges like a lack of jobs, education, transportation and medical care, the children can be at higher risk for child abuse or neglect. Many families in Yancey and Mitchell counties can now take advantage of resources to help them through difficult times, thanks to the intensive home visiting program established by a Toe River Health District (TRHD) coalition. By forming a coalition with other agencies, the TRHD is able to help bridge the service gap and strengthen many overburdened families and parent-child relationships.

### **Union County Health Department Mental Health/Pediatric Co-Location Project**

When children are emotionally fragile, waiting for weeks or sometimes months for mental health services can be devastating. To overcome this issue, the Union County Health Department co-located children's mental health services with the pediatric clinic, significantly decreasing wait times for pediatric mental health visits.

### **Wilkes County Health Department Wilkes County Diabetes and Nutrition Center**

Wilkes County faces its share of children who are overweight or obese, but public health nutritionists also tackle many other serious dietary problems, such as food allergies, picky eaters, or children on feeding tubes. By counseling healthy eating habits and nutrition, the dietitians are playing a vital role in the lives of Wilkes County children working with pediatric focused nutrition programs.



★ Denotes 2014 award recipients

## Public Health Staff Recognition

### **Karen Copley, RN, Davidson County Health Department**

Dependability is Karen Copley's middle name, at least around the Davidson County Health Department, according to her nominator. She has worked in Home and School Health, Clinical Services, teaching roles and managing influenza vaccination clinics. As the Communicable Disease Supervisor she wears many hats, including preceptor, and works to provide internships for nursing students.

### **Rebekah Hermann, BSN, RN, Orange County Public Health Department**

Rebekah (Beckie) Hermann is known as the child development "guru," as noted by her nominator. She generously shares her knowledge with colleagues, and advocates for child health interventions and awareness of a multitude of issues. From presenting at statewide conferences to volunteering in the community, she has made a tremendous difference in the lives of Orange County children.

### **Zachary Hunter, DDS, New Hanover County Health Department**

Dr. Hunter takes to the road in his quest for healthier teeth. He operates the New Hanover County Health Department's Mobile Dental Unit to bring dental services to low-income children at public schools in New Hanover and Brunswick counties.

### **★ Jackie Morgan, Union County Health Department**

Jackie Morgan is good at finding creative ways to make dollars go much further. She helped create the first farmer's market at the Health Department and the first community vegetable garden, and helped implement the oral hygiene "Smiles" program. These and many other programs are possible because of Jackie's energy, creativity and commitment to healthier Union County children.

### **Landra Roope, RN, BSN Wilkes County Health Department**

If a child needs a wellness check and the clinic is short-staffed, Child Health Coordinator Landra Roope quickly steps into her job as Expanded Role Nurse and sees the child. Because she is dependable, trustworthy, flexible and cost-conscious, she is often asked to mentor and help train students and colleagues.



## Individual Recognition

### **Tiffanie Boone, RN Granville Vance District Health Department**

Tiffanie Boone coordinates the Child Health Program, provides direct patient care in clinics, and helps with programs in emergency preparedness, lead poisoning and immunization. Her dedication and commitment are demonstrated in the quality of her work and she is admired by her peers. Her work has helped strengthen the immunization rates in the county and the department's program is a model for the state.

### **★ Stephanie Carter, BSW Madison County Health Department**

As the Pregnancy Care Manager in Madison County, Stephanie Carter knows that helping young mothers become better parents will lead to better health for their children. Certified with a variety of Positive Parenting Program (Triple P) levels, Carter started a networking and support group called Mommy Mondays, bringing together mothers and their children for fun, learning, support and networking, and offering women a chance to provide advice and serve as role models for each other. This program was designed to help combat the alarming child abuse and neglect issues in the county.

### **Bridgit McPhatter Southeastern Health Center**

Bridgit McPhatter is a catalyst for change in Robeson County, particularly by teaching young girls about healthier choices in life. Her sensitive and caring nature is seen in her tireless work with young rape victims, in drug prevention programs, fundraising for cancer and heart research and other volunteer roles.



★ Denotes 2014 award recipients



The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation is a proud supporter of programs in our state that help advance health, science and education.

## **2014 SELECTION COMMITTEE**

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation appreciates the diligence of the North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA) in overseeing the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards program. We are grateful to the selection committee members for their time and careful consideration of all nominations.

Thank you to everyone involved.

### ***Brenda Dunn, BSN, MPH***

NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health (retired)

### ***Cindy B. Evans, RN-BC***

Wake County Human Services

### ***Kelly Spangler, LCSW, MSW, MPA***

NC Department of Health and Human Services,  
Division of Public Health

### ***Anne Thomas, MPA, BSN, RN***

PRAXIS Partners for Health LLP  
Dare County Public Health Department (retired)

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The information presented in this booklet was provided by the nominators and reflects their views.  
We appreciate their participation sharing the work of others that create innovative programs.  
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