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FOR RELEASE AFTER 1:00 p.m.

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**Union County Health Programs Coordinator Captures  
North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award**

*- Maria Laury Brings Enthusiasm to Family Health Care -*

**Winston-Salem, NC** – Maria Clara Laury is contagious—but in a good way! The Health Promotions Bilingual Program Coordinator works tirelessly and diligently to serve Union County families in all aspects of health care, and her enthusiasm is infectious. For her positive attitude and wealth of knowledge about children’s programs, Laury was presented today with the Individual Recognition Award in the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation’s 2015 Child Health Recognition Awards program.

Laury works in dental health programs, teaches parenting and Scrub Club handwashing classes, coordinates the After Lunch Tooth Brushing Program in pre-kindergarten child care centers across the county and recently began work in the Healthy Homes program. She brings together volunteers and community partners to strengthen her programs. She also serves on the Union County Latino Coalition and volunteers as an interpreter in the community. Her knowledge and positive attitude make her a resource and trusted advocate for families and colleagues in her department and beyond.

**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 **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 2015 NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Awards are:

**Lifetime Achievement Recognition**

- Marian Earls, MD; Director of Pediatric Programs, Community Care of North Carolina

**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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