



MULTNOMAH COUNTY OREGON

April 4, 2006

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Ceremony will honor Public Health Heroes

Multnomah County Health Department began honoring Public Health Heroes in 2001 as a way to locally celebrate National Public Health Week. The annual public health award celebration recognizes the contributions that community members make through their work or volunteerism to protect and promote the health of all of us in Multnomah County. The Public Health Heroes awards honor people who live or work in Multnomah County and promote public health in their daily lives.

Public Health Hero awards are given in six categories (listed with winners on the second page) three of which have been named for individuals who have made outstanding contributions to public health. Multnomah County established the **Josiah Hill Public Health Hero Award** to honor his legacy as a powerful and dedicated champion in the fight for social, racial, health, and environmental justice. The **Governor John Kitzhaber Public Health Leadership Award** honors those in our community who have worked unceasingly to create policy solutions that assure, promote, and protect health for every member of the community. Last year, Multnomah County honored the legacy of **Katharine Jeans-Gail**, a young woman who was a champion for public health. She worked both locally and internationally to assure that the most vulnerable in our world could be healthy. Ms. Jeans-Gail's life was cut short by an automobile accident in December 2003.

Multnomah County Health Department will celebrate the contribution of local health "heroes" at the sixth annual Public Health Heroes award ceremony:

Thursday, April 6, 2006
10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Multnomah Building Board Room
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd.
Portland, Oregon 97214

"The public health system's ability to serve the working poor, uninsured, and medically under-served depends on the commitment of an extensive network of community organizations and individuals, or 'Public Health Heroes.' We're honoring those who work to make Multnomah County a healthier place to live," states Health Department Director Lillian Shirley RN, MPH, MPA.

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2006 Public Health Hero Awardees

Josiah Hill Award for Community Member

Rhone Williams is the program coordinator for Mallory Church of Christ -Monday Morning Breakfast. The Breakfast started in September 2003. It is a place that community members in need can come to find information and referrals for social services and health needs. With the help of the volunteers from Mallory Church of Christ, they serve breakfast and provide social service support for 20-40 people every Monday.

Governor John Kitzhaber Public Health Leadership

Maria Michalczyk, RN has been the driving force behind the efforts to develop and implement a quality educational Healthcare Interpreter Program at the Institute of Health Professionals. Maria promotes quality healthcare for all patients through the process of educating and training health care interpreters, advocating for the use of interpreters in service delivery models, and creating standards and certification within this profession.

Multnomah County Employee

Jan Poujade, RN has been a Multnomah County employee for over 31 years. Her leadership is inspiring to both co-workers and the people she serves daily in communicable disease prevention. She is a true nurse epidemiologist. Jan is described by one of her staff as having a “supreme passion for her job and a firm work ethic” and another expresses that “I appreciate having a boss who could roll up her sleeves and help out.”

Business

Pacific Coast Restaurants has gone above and beyond what the Multnomah County Smoke-free Workplace ordinance requires by voluntarily adopting a company-wide no smoking policy for all restaurants and bar areas. Some of the restaurants that are under the Pacific Coast Corporation are Stanford’s Restaurant and Bar, Newport Bay, and Portland City Grill.

Community-Based Organization

Asian Health and Service Center (AHSC) serves the Asian community in the tri-county area, and offers numerous services with minimal resources. The AHSC assists anyone coming through their door that is in need; providing health education, mental health services, and holding social events to increase community connections. They have a bicultural /bilingual staff and a dedicated volunteer group of providers that support the social and health services at the center.

Katie Jeans-Gail Award for Young Heroes

The STARS Program Team Leaders promote the importance of making choices, setting limits to stay safe, and ways to effectively deal with pressure from peers in middle school. The Teen Leaders are dedicated to making a difference within their own communities. They volunteer along with going to school and many also work part time jobs.

The Girls Leadership-Peace Campaign

These young women are learning how to face problems in their homes, schools and community in a non-violent but assertive way. They are focusing on being role models for other youth in their community, promoting cooperation instead of conflict. These girls took on violence as a public health issue in their community.

Sarah Marie Benjamin and Tejara Brown, members of the Multnomah County Community Health Council, are two young women who have been champions and supporters for the school-based health care program. They completed a “photo voice” project with a team of youth to explore and document health issues in the community. They have shared their stories with policy makers and participated in the School-Based Health Care Network’s Day in our State Capital.

Special Recognition Award

Amy Joslin In loving memory of all the work that Amy has done over the past decade as a leader and driving force for Multnomah County’s sustainability movement. Amy directed the county’s efforts to find innovative solutions to problems facing our communities.

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