



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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PUBLIC HEALTH CHAMPION AWARDS TO BE PRESENTED APRIL 7

Event Will Recognize Individuals and Organizations Promoting Health for San Diego Residents

Ten individuals and organizations that have made extraordinary achievements in public health will be recognized for their contributions and efforts at the Public Health Champion Awards ceremony during Public Health Week 2006.

"These individuals and organizations have demonstrated innovation and creative thinking in their commitment to protect the health of residents of San Diego County," said Director Jean Shepard. "Public Health Champions gives us the opportunity to show them how much we appreciate their efforts, and to bring attention to the work they do that is so valuable to our community."

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHS) is giving the awards to recognize those who protect and promote the health of San Diego County residents. This year's theme for Public Health Week, April 3 – 9, is "Designing Healthy Communities, Raising Healthy Kids."

The ceremony takes place from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 7 at the County Administration Center, 1600 Pacific Highway, San Diego, Room 310. HHS Director Jean Shepard will present the awards. A reception will follow.

The recipients were chosen from among 22 nominees, all with noteworthy service, in public health and health promotion. Four awards will be given in three categories: The Theme Award, to be presented to Margery Pierce, Housing and Neighborhood Services, City of Oceanside; the Individual Award, to be presented to Raymond M. Peterson, M.D., M.P.H., San Diego Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled and Blair Sadler, Children's Hospital; and the Organization Award, to be presented to University of California San Diego Division of Community Pediatrics.

Individuals or organizations from each of the six county regions also will be honored. Recipients include: Pro Kids Academy Golf Inc., Central Region; Boys and Girls Clubs of East County, East Region; Joel H. San Juan, Operation Samahan, North Central Region; Carol Skiljan, Light for Life Foundation of Southern California, North Coastal Region; San Diego County Rural Health Network, North Inland Region; and Neighborhood Council Initiative (NCI), South Region.

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