



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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TEN INNOVATIVE LOCAL HEALTH CHAMPIONS RECOGNIZED BY COUNTY *Public Health Champions Awards Presented to Individuals and Organizations April 2*

The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) will honor 10 area organizations and individuals for their extraordinary achievements in public health at its ninth annual Public Health Champion Awards ceremony.

The 2010 awards will be presented **Friday, April 2, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the County Administration Center—Room 310, 1600 Pacific Highway.**

“These are exceptional community organizations and individuals that support the County of San Diego’s efforts to make our communities healthier – one person at a time,” said Chairwoman Pam Slater-Price, County of San Diego Board of Supervisors.

Every year, HHSA’s Public Health Services honors and recognizes 10 individuals and organizations in four categories—Theme, Individual, Organization, and Regional—that are helping local residents make healthier lifestyle choices through proper nutrition, education, and preventive care.

“These are individuals that are helping to prevent disease, injury and disability in our communities by encouraging people to lead a more active lifestyle and seek needed care to improve their quality of life,” said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H, County Public Health Officer.

2010 Public Health Champions Award winners are:

Theme Award: Kathy Kinane, Founder of Kinane Events

Kinane Events coordinates running events that empower the community, specifically women and girls, to attain health and happiness through fitness and healthy living.

Individual Award: Terry Racciato, RN, PHN, President/Founder of Together We Grow

Together We Grow Preschool serves a 50/50 ratio of medically fragile children and those without special medical needs—encouraging inclusion, compassion and understanding.

Organization Award: Christie’s Place

Christie’s Place is a non-profit social service organization that serves the needs of people living with HIV and AIDS.

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REGIONAL AWARDS:

AARP

AARP is a nonprofit membership organization who works with the entire community to encourage health, independence, dignity, and purpose in those 50 and older.

Michael Kelly, M.D.

Dr. Kelly is a retired family physician that has continued his community leadership and volunteer efforts. He currently is Chair of the San Diego Regional Asthma Coalition and has mobilized the coalition to advocate for stronger emissions regulations and pushed for improved approaches to asthma management.

Barbara Warner

Ms. Warner is a long-time resident and advocate for the community of Spring Valley. Barbara serves on numerous committees dedicated to improving the health and wellness of Spring Valley; much of Ms. Warner's work is dedicated to removing barriers to health.

Connie Curran, R.N., Ed.D.

Dr. Curran is the *Safety Through Education and Prevention Services (STEPS)* Program Coordinator for seniors at Bayside Community Center and has received grants to help seniors in the Linda Vista community remain independent and engaged in their community.

Laurin Pause

Ms. Pause is the Executive Director of the *Community Resource Center (CRC)*, a nonprofit agency dedicated to helping women and children, and families in north coastal communities live safe and self-sufficient lives. CRC provides vital assistance in the areas of domestic violence, food security, and transitional and emergency housing.

MaryAnne Dijak

In her role as a substance abuse prevention specialist with the *North Inland Community Prevention Program*, Ms. Dijak actively engages multi-faceted community groups in an effort to build a collaborative relationship to fight against alcohol and drug abuse in youth.

Shaila Serpas, M.D.

Dr. Serpas is currently the Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at San Ysidro Health Center and Scripps Memorial Hospital in Chula Vista. Dr. Serpas has impacted the community through her efforts which include helping to establish two school-based clinics in the Sweetwater Union High School District.

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