

MICHIGAN PUBLIC HEALTH WEEK PARTNERSHIP



HOMETOWN HEALTH HEROES JEAN CHABUT HEALTH POLICY CHAMPIONS 2004-2024

2024 Hometown Health Hero Award

- **Families Against Narcotics (FAN)**

Families Against Narcotics (FAN) is a continuum of care for people who have been affected by substance use disorder (SUD) and makes connecting to treatment easier to get help regardless of where people live or if they have insurance. FAN also helps families and friends of those impacted by a loved one's addiction by offering comprehensive recovery coaching which contributes to success in sobriety. FAN provides mobile services and connects participants with housing resources and medical care. In 2023, more than 2,500 people were connected with recovery services, 252 naloxone training sessions were held and over 3,200 naloxone kits were distributed across the state.
- **Jill Montgomery Keast**

As a public health leader, Keast has led multiple community efforts to improve the health and wellbeing of her community in Muskegon County. Keast co-founded the Muskegon Area Opiate Task Force in 2016 and began facilitating meetings and collecting data around opiate issues becoming the chair in 2023. A subject matter expert on multiple sources of data, Keast actively engages in regional and state data review on opioids, fatality review teams and epidemiological work groups and makes data accessible and actionable for her community. Keast is also part of Muskegon's Red Project.
- **Kathi Harris**

As part of the PROACTIVE Project (People Reaching Out Advocating in the Community Together Increasing Voter Empowerment), Kathi Harris works to provide social and economic progress for minorities, low income and underrepresented people in the Grand Rapids area. In 2023, Harris worked with the Kent County Health Department to improve outreach to community members who were not receiving information about the availability of water filters to prevent lead exposure. Through the work of Harris and PROACTIVE an additional 500 filters were distributed within the community.
- **Lon'Dyn "Monica" Hudson**

Hudson serves the southeast Michigan area including Detroit by representing transgender, LGBTQ+ and other minorities and has a critical role in providing education, testing and other HIV/STI prevention strategies and resources to members of these communities. Hudson helped facilitate access to information

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about mpox and vaccination in non-traditional venues and outside of working hours when members of those communities were being disproportionately affected by the outbreak. Hudson is also part of Michigan’s statewide PrEP campaign “MIPrEP. MiChoice.” Hudson is committed to supporting transgender and LGBTQ+ communities by creating spaces for people to freely express themselves, create relationships and receive education around HIV/STI treatment and prevention.

- Lannie Berg

In response to the tragic death of a newborn, Lannie helped found Welcome Newborns of Delta County to promote the well-being of children, improve parent-child relationships and prevent child abuse and neglect. Under Lannie’s leadership the organization provides education, age-specific monthly parenting newsletters, low-cost research-based materials and safe sleep kits to new parents. Lannie distributes materials outside working hours to ensure new parents have access to resources that will keep children healthy and safe. This service is available to all parents in Delta County.

- Monica Eriksen

As part of Luce, Mackinac, Alger and Schoolcraft (LMAS) District Health Department, Eriksen engages with residents in the four counties to provide compassionate health care, supplies needed to prevent disease and other risks associated with substance use as well as support for people on their path to substance use recovery. Through her outreach, Eriksen improved the health of people in her community by ensuring those who experienced substance use disorders received non-judgmental care, set appointments, accompanied clients to appointments, and ensured those affected were receiving follow-up care. In addition to her compassionate care for those affected by substance use disorder, Eriksen identified family members of clients who needed extra care and connected them to the Maternal Infant Health Program.

2023 Hometown Health Hero Award

- Lyn Campbell, Central Michigan District Health Department

Lyn serves residents in central lower Michigan living with HIV/AIDS through supervision of the Ryan White clinic operated by the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD). Through her efforts this clinic has achieved a 100% viral suppression rate and is one of only a few clinics in the U.S. to offer CABENUVA, an injectable antiretroviral therapy medication to treat HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the CMDHD offers PrEP, a pre-exposure prophylaxis medication to reduce the chance of getting HIV from sex or injection drug use. Lyn and her team have brought additional providers to offer full wraparound services for

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clients in one location. Case managers help coordinate care from basic needs to medication management.

- Dana Kissner, MD, Detroit Health Department Tuberculosis Program
Dr. Kissner has worked for decades to serve patients in the Detroit area. She took over leadership of the Tuberculosis clinic at the City of Detroit Health Department in 2007 and modernized the program. The program she established offers a comprehensive approach including having providers who speak multiple languages and who treat the patient as a whole person and not just their Tuberculosis diagnosis. Thanks to her leadership there has not been a case of multi-drug resistant Tuberculosis in Detroit since 2012.
- Carol Thornton, Dickinson-Iron Child Death Review Team
Following her retirement from the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department, Carol volunteered to create and lead a Child Death Review (CDR) team to cover Iron and Dickinson counties. The purpose of this team is to create activities and initiatives that can prevent child deaths in the future. CDR teams are not required in Michigan but help facilitate the review process for locations served. Carol has helped families learn about teen suicide, safe infant sleep and safe sledding as well as providing information on how to choose a safe vehicle for teens and keeping the vehicle properly maintained.
- Christopher Petrat, Be Well Medical Center
Christopher was instrumental in broadening availability of the Jynneos vaccine during the Mpox outbreak that began in 2022. Christopher worked with community leaders and event organizers within the local LGBTQ+ community to set up vaccine tables at a variety of events on weekends and evenings and made sure the vaccines were located at events where community members felt secure and comfortable. 413 Jynneos doses were administered by the Be Well Medical Center where Christopher works, which was 14% of all doses administered in Oakland County. Christopher also helped run vaccination events in areas of the state beyond Oakland County.
- Jeremiah Hodshire, Hillsdale Hospital
As the CEO of Hillsdale Hospital, Mr. Hodshire has worked to increase specialists and services provided to a rural community in Hillsdale, Michigan. He has worked with local leaders to build trust within members of the community to help with cost-sharing of medical expenses, which led to people accessing more preventative care instead of only receiving emergent care for more complex issues. He also worked to re-open My Community Dental Center in Hillsdale to provide dental care to low-income and Medicaid patients, which decreased the number of patients visiting the emergency room for oral-related emergencies.
- Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium

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The Northern Michigan Opioid Response Consortium (NMORC) serves 25 counties in the northern lower peninsula and its mission is to engage northern lower Michigan in a coordinated response to reduce opioid and substance use disorders. NMORC offers naloxone training and distribution, harm reduction activities including education efforts, provider training, workforce assistance and they work to reduce stigma around opioid and substance use.

- **Dollar General**

In Michigan, Dollar General partnered with the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan in Flint, Forgotten Harvest in Detroit, and Food Gatherers in Ann Arbor and donated 168,000 pounds of food equaling approximately 127,000 meals in 2022. Also, in 2022, DG offered produce at an additional 38 stores for a total of 91 stores in Michigan offering produce, including 11 stores in food desert areas.

2023 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champions

- **Jane Sundmacher**

Jane established and expanded the Northern Michigan Community Health Innovation Region (NMCHIR), a 10-county collaboration supporting healthy people through partnerships of local health departments, hospitals, community-based organizations and more by aligning systems and addressing barriers to health and well-being. Sundmacher has secured millions of dollars of federal, state, and local grant funding to support health department programming, mentor public health professionals, lead cross-jurisdictional sharing projects, and facilitate strategic planning for health organizations across northwest Michigan.

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- Northern Michigan Health Innovation Region
The NMCHIR has been recognized with a national Rural Health Innovation Profile for exciting and potentially replicable innovations in rural health care that show promise in improving health and lowering costs. NMCHIR achieved \$3 million in Medicaid Health Plan savings between 2016 and 2021 by reducing emergency room visits by 23.5% and inpatient stays by 25.5%. A 2019 Collective Impact Study by Michigan State University found that the work of the NMCHIR was “transforming individual lives,” creating more responsive and effective organizations and a more accessible, coordinated services system.
- Ottawa County Department of Public Health
According to the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), “Project Public Health Ready” (PPHR) is a criteria-based training and recognition program through which local health departments (LHDs) demonstrate preparedness and response capability and capacity by showing they meet a nationally recognized set of criteria that are aligned with federal requirements and national best practices. This recognition is valid for five years, after which LHDs must reapply for recognition. Ottawa County Department of Public Health first achieved PPHR recognition in 2017. They successfully completed the five-year re-recognition process in 2022.

2022 Hometown Health Hero Award

- COVID-19 Volunteer Contact Tracers
This group of public citizens served as volunteer COVID-19 contact tracers for MDHHS starting in May of 2020. They dedicated over 150 hours of their own time to help us support a system before staff were in place. They gave MDHHS feedback on the technology, call scripts, and called thousands of people in Michigan on their own time.
- Wil Cwikiel
Wil Cwikiel is the superintendent-principal of Beaver Island Community Schools. Cwikiel advocated with the local health department for COVID vaccine clinics on Beaver Island, helped the local health department and his rural health center coordinate the clinics, and allowed the use of school facilities for recurrent COVID and general vaccination clinics. Despite only having a small rural health center and no hospital, as well as having physical and distance barriers, 85.8% of Beaver Island residents are fully vaccinated. In addition to promoting these clinics, Cwikiel volunteered at many of the ones held at his school while handling his day-to-day responsibilities when school was in session.
- Kelly Hostetler
In July of 2021, Ms. Hostetler partnered with the St. Joseph County Health Commission's Access to Healthcare Committee to design and execute a plan

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targeting the COVID vaccination rate. The program provided COVID vaccination, free wellness screenings, a free dinner, \$25 gift cards to local businesses for participants, and vaccine hesitancy training to partnering agencies and community leaders. Ms. Hostetler also partnered with Swick Media to promote the clinics with pre-event advertising and day of event remote broadcasts. Through these efforts the vaccination rate improved to over 50% with 1 dose of vaccine by October 3, 2021.

- **Veronica McNally**
Ms. McNally is an attorney by profession, but in her spare time is the Founder and Director of the Franny Strong Foundation and an integral partner in the I Vaccinate Campaign. She also serves as the only Consumer Representative on the U.S. Advisory Council on Immunization Practices.
- **Maria Militzer**
Under Maria Militzer's leadership Mexiquenses en Michigan expanded their partnership with the Washtenaw County Health Department (WCHD) to specifically address the LatinX community's needs related to COVID-19, including access to vaccination and other resources. This work has been in addition to their usual activities, and they have created an extensive network of volunteers who support these efforts in Washtenaw County.
- **Need Our Water (NOW) of Oscoda**
NOW is a grassroots community action group made up of volunteers who are interested in the cleanup and preservation of Oscoda area natural resources from PFAS contamination and its harmful impacts to humans and wildlife. For more than five years NOW has been working to increase awareness around PFAS in ground water and recreational waters and advocating for a health study or assessment that will add to the current research surrounding the health impacts caused by PFAS consumption and contamination. The 2022 Oscoda Area Exposure Assessment developed by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services is one product of NOW's continued advocacy efforts.
- **Jennifer Stambaugh**
Ms. Stambaugh took it upon herself to expand the services provided at the Children's Advocacy Center (Gratiot County) by adding tools and activities to the menu of services offered at the Center: 1) Developed and implemented a Care Process Model for assessing pediatric stress and suicidal ideation with the goal of triaging children and adolescents to appropriate levels of mental health care and treatment. 2) coordinate and co-facilitate art therapy groups for high school and middle school adolescents who have disclosed sexual abuse or assault. 3) led the development of Master of Social Work and Bachelor of Social Work internship programs (for victim advocacy). 4) organized holiday assistance for families most in need and 5) sought out and secured additional mental health providers to

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partner with in caring for the children and families who visit the Children's Advocacy Center.

2022 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion Award

- The three recipients listed below all share the same profession: they have been health officers for local health departments in Michigan. These individuals were nominated either by member of their staff or members of their community. They have demonstrated untiring commitment to the health and safety of their communities.
 - Martha Hall, Lenawee County Health Department (retired in 2022)
 - Annette Mercatante, MD, St. Clair County Health Department (retired in 2022)
 - Kathy Moore, Public Health Muskegon County

2021 Hometown Health Hero Award

- Ghada Abdallah
Ms. Abdallah is a pharmacist who was semi-retired before the COVID-19 pandemic. She came out of retirement to take on the responsibility of running the COVID-19 vaccination clinics at the TCF Center for the City of Detroit Health Department. Her leadership and knowledge allowed for a very successful operation and many people receiving their COVID vaccination.
- Rev. Heather Boone
Pastor Boone is a volunteer pastor at Oaks of Righteousness. Through her leadership, along with partnerships formed with ProMedica and Meijer, Inc., a new grocery store opened in the food desert of East Monroe on March 26, 2020. This is just the latest program she and Oaks of Righteousness have developed. She also started and runs a free health care clinic, food bank, clothing closet, daycare and 70 bed homeless shelter.
- Deerhaven Family Dentistry
In 1998, Deerhaven Family Dentistry began "Doctors with a Heart Day" to provide free dental care for those who could not afford or did not have access to dental care on one day every year. They have kept this up ever since. In 2015, they added Veterans Day services. All employees who work these free clinics are volunteers; they are not paid.
- Dow Bay Area YMCA
The Dow Bay Area Family YMCA was classified as a 'gym', which meant it was to remain closed for approximately six months under Executive Orders due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than sending everyone home though, this organization found other ways of fulfilling its mission. Their staff started filling emergency food boxes and safely delivering them to porches of those in need, handing out meals to youth in their parking lot and even facilitating outdoor exercise classes. In addition, when most school districts closed for face-to-face

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classes, the YMCA created a program to support students with remote learning all day while their parents worked.

- **Laura Gatny**
Ms. Gatny is a licensed psychologist who had retired from private practice. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit and schools moved to remote learning, she was determined to help reach children and adolescents in a way beyond remote connections. Using her own resources, she established environments that were covid-safe so sessions could be held in-person to help heal the unprecedented distress the youth in Oakland County had been feeling.
- **Rabbi Elimelech Goldberg**
Rabbi Goldberg began a program in the Oak Park School District called Heroes Circle. The Heroes Circle empowers students to utilize skills they develop while participating in the program to be themselves. Through their skill set and a process of self-discovery they exhibit more empathy, mental health and wellness, along with emotional and behavioral self-regulation and healthier social relationships.
- **Health Net of West Michigan**
Ordinarily, Health Net provides navigation services to individuals who are uninsured, have Priority Health Medicaid, or Molina Medicaid. Early in 2020, Health Net expanded their services eligibility to anyone living in Kent County. Over the past year, they received 272 self-referrals from community members, completed 221 food- and resource-related transportation trips between April 2020 and January 2021, assisted 2-1-1 by answering calls. Health Net Team members donated their time for 3 food distribution events, translated materials into Spanish and other languages for the community. Health Net also provided resources for the behavioral health needs of its staff.
- **Lowell Wellness Camp**
Lowell Wellness Camp is an after-school program focused on health education lessons for children in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th grades covering nutrition, physical education, and mental health. The program has since expanded to children in grades 6 – 8. The program began in 2018 and has demonstrated its success in exhibiting a change in behaviors with food choices, as well as coping and mindfulness practice. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, Lowell Wellness Camp went virtual and continued its program.
- **Gina Spehn**
Gina Spehn is the president and co-founder of New Day Foundation. During the pandemic, she developed an all-volunteer grocery delivery program for cancer patients and others who are immuno-compromised within the foundation's service area to protect them from the COVID-19 virus and assure they had the groceries they needed.

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2021 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion Award

- Robert (Bob) Swanson

Bob Swanson recently retired as the Director of the Division of Immunizations at the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services after 30 years of service. Bob was on the initial team to develop the Michigan Immunization Information System (MCIR) which now contains over 10 million individuals and over 136 million vaccine records. Michigan was a pilot site for implementing vaccine ordering using the MCIR with an interface to the federal vaccine ordering system. This successful pilot is now the standard being used across the country. Bob has been actively involved in several national initiatives related to immunizations. Bob has been the chair of the Association of Immunization Manager's (AIM) IIS Committee since 2003 and was re-elected to the Executive Committee of AIM for three terms.

2020 Hometown Health Hero Award

- Michael Craig

Providing Vocational Horticulture Skills to Special Needs Students, which can lead to more intensive summer school training, work study placements in the industry, and from there, possible full and/or part time employment. The program also provides access to healthy foods and fresh produce for the school families in Detroit & Highland Park.

- Sally Hanley

Ms. Hanley proposed the idea of creating a baby pantry for families over 17 years ago when she was a volunteer for local food pantries. Sally identified the community need and then started a baby pantry to provide infant diapers, clothes, bedding, baby foods, infant formula, toys, books, etc. for low-income family in the Grand Traverse County area. In 2019, 863 families were helped by the Baby Pantry.

- Daniel McGinnis, Director, Department of Public Safety, City of Benton Harbor

Through community engagement, Director McGinnis addressed the health hazards of the large-scale and illegal dumping that was taking place in Benton Harbor. Through his efforts at both clean up and enforcement, the city has seen significant and measurable improvements in the environment and health of its citizen.

- Action for Child Care, Denise Meyer, CEO

Action for Child Care reaches vulnerable children and families in Genesee, Ingham, and Shiawassee counties, while being a fully volunteer-run nonprofit organization. Action for Child Care gives children the opportunity to thrive in healthy, safe environments by ensuring access to vital health and safety equipment.

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- **Jamaine Atkins**
Upon returning to civilian life after serving in the US Navy, Mr. Atkins observed a gap in appropriate services, supports and housing for Veterans with PTSD, substance use disorder and a history of trauma in Washtenaw County. These observations motivated Mr. Atkins to create what was lacking during his return to civilian life. Through the founding of Any Lengths Sober Living, he seeks to provide a safe, drug & alcohol-free environment for men seeking to experience the promise of a healthier and more productive lifestyle which is guaranteed with a life in recovery from substance use.
- **Stewart Wang, MD, PhD, Director, Burn Center – Michigan Medicine**
Dr. Wang provided strategic leadership in the development and implementation of the State of Michigan Mass Casualty incident Burn Surge Plan. Hospital burn beds are limited in Michigan and across the country. This innovative plan provides an important mechanism to increase capacity should an incident occur, either natural or man-made disaster, that results in a larger number of citizens with significant burns. This plan has become an example to other states and other countries.
- **Community Health Awareness Group, Cindy Bolden-Calhoun, Executive Director**
Since 1997, with limited funding and many volunteer hours, CHAG has conducted the Life Points program, a comprehensive harm reduction outreach program providing a continuum of public health services to intravenous drug users and their partners, including overdose prevention, in the City of Detroit and the wider Wayne County area.
- **Ride with Pride, Jon Gale, Chief, Norton Shores Police Department**
The current initiative serves 4,800 students among seven high schools and middle schools in Muskegon County. This individual school-based approach engages community members on underage drinking, builds the capacity of communities to improve alcohol-related issues, and has had a dramatic effect on local school climate and culture, including drops in violence and bullying, and has built positive relationships with teachers, administrators, and law enforcement.

2020 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion Award

- **Allegan County Health Department – Project Public Health Ready Re-Recognition**
- **Kent County Health Department – Project Public Health Ready Re-Recognition**
Through Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), local health departments demonstrate preparedness and response capability and capacity by demonstrating they meet a nationally recognized set of criteria that are aligned with federal requirements and national best practices. Kent County Health Department and Allegan County Health Department first achieved PPHR recognition in 2015. The recognition is valid for a

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5-year period during which time these LHDs continued to build and strengthen their readiness utilizing a CQI approach.

2019 Hometown Health Hero Award

- **Lori Bennett**

Lori created the F-Sharp program to reach youth experiencing homelessness in Washtenaw County. F-Sharp stands for Family Shelter Health Assessment and Referral program. This program helps youth experiencing homelessness become enrolled with a medical provider by providing health assessments and referrals at shelter sites.
- **Ed Benning**

Mr. Benning, general manager of the Flint Mass Transportation Authority (MTA), created the Rides to Groceries program when local grocery stores were closing, and residents couldn't get access to grocery stores outside of their area. Under his direction, Flint MTA also assisted the local community by opening the doors at several MTA locations to store and distribute water to the community and transport workers and supplies into neighborhoods. Mr. Benning also conceived Rides to Wellness, which transports Genesee County residents to and from medical appointments and pharmacies.
- **Laura Brott**

Ms. Brott has found innovative ways to connect service providers with citizens in St. Joseph County who are in need of their services. Ms. Brott used technology to develop a website with an integrated community calendar; a comprehensive resource guide for service providers so appropriate referrals could be made beyond their own agencies, along with coordinating the annual Project Connect/Veterans Stand Down event. Survey data has shown the success of these efforts.
- **Charlevoix Hospital School Nurse Program**

Charlevoix Hospital began placing registered nurses in community schools in 2011 in response to increases in preventable pediatric cases in the emergency department during school hours. This program's health impacts have caused a significant drop in the chronic absenteeism rate for the schools in the community.
- **Ele's Place School-Based Program**

Ele's Place has been a longtime haven for grieving families in Greater Lansing to seek programming and support under one roof. However, for middle and high school aged students with busy social schedules, having a support group offered on-site during the school day to help them cope with their grief has been a game changer.

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This year, 34 schools throughout Mid-Michigan have access to the program, thanks to funding from Delta Dental.

- **Healthy Dearborn Coalition**
Healthy Dearborn is a partnership between Beaumont Health, City of Dearborn, Dearborn Public Schools and more than 400 other community members working together to create a culture of health by ensuring access to healthy eating and active living opportunities for everyone in Dearborn.
- **Leanna Kermeen**
Over the last two years, Ms. Kermeen has identified and treated communicable disease within the migrant camps in Ottawa County. Her work to slow or stop the spread of infections (such as chlamydia) has positively impacted migrant farmworkers and the community at large. She also assists with meeting basic needs of the migrant population in the county. As a public health nurse, one would think this all in a day's work; except Ms. Kermeen does all this on her own time after her day job is over.
- **Phil Pavona**
Mr. Pavona started the second FAN: Families Against Narcotics Chapter in Ingham County and has started numerous new chapters across Michigan. The beauty of Families Against Narcotics is that the topics and meetings bring stakeholders of each community together. Everyone attending is concerned with an area of narcotic addiction and is working together to raise awareness of the dangers of narcotics as well as support families struggling with the impact of narcotic addiction.

2019 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion Award

- Senator John Bizon, MD
- Edward J. Canfield, DO
- Rep. Abdullah Hammoud
- Rep. Kevin Hertel
- Rep. Jon Hoadley
- Rep. Hank Vaupel

These legislators worked to pass a bi-partisan bill package to modernize HIV reporting and testing requirements in 2018 (HB 6016-HB 6023). The key points of the bills included adding a mandatory third trimester test for pregnant women to prevent perinatal transmission of HIV, syphilis, and hepatitis B, and modifications to Michigan's HIV disclosure laws. All the modifications will decrease stigma, increase access to care, and bring the public health code in line with current science.

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2018 Hometown Health Hero Award

- Ranelle Brew, PhD, and Kathy Agee
Summer Health Activities and Professions Exploration Camp provides at-risk middle school-aged students hands-on exposure to a variety of health professions. In addition to promoting healthy behaviors and activities, sHaPe Camp introduces possible career choices while encouraging and inspiring many first-generation college students from an often-neglected population.
- Julie Beamer
Recognizing the need to get more nutritious milk into the hands of disadvantaged families, Julie dedicated her efforts to building and leveraging relationships across the milk supply chain including Kroger, Michigan Dairy, and United Dairy Industry of Michigan, and developing targeted fundraising initiatives with relevant donor messaging. The resulting program has seen over 137,201 gallons of milk delivered to needy families in SE Michigan in 2017.
- Corner Health Theater Troupe, Greg VanKempen, Advisor
The theatre troupe develops and performs important health-related theatrical presentations for youth audiences in the Washtenaw and Wayne County areas. They focus on crucial topics such as sexual health, dating violence, depression, suicide prevention, bullying, LGBTQ issues, substance abuse, etc. After shows, the actors, as peer educators, engage the audience in question-and-answer sessions, personal experiences and provide additional education.
- Kim Eagle, MD
Disturbed by the number of patients with preventable cardiovascular disease that he saw in his adult cardiology practice, and the types of food and the lack of physical activity at his son's school, Kim Eagle, M.D. envisioned a school-based intervention to improve health and reduce childhood obesity. Project Healthy Schools encourages healthy habits through assessment, education, environmental change, and measurement. In addition, this program builds a sustainable framework for continuous school wellness improvements. The program is used in schools in 36 of Michigan's 83 counties.

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- Families Against Narcotics – Macomb County Chapter
Hope Not Handcuffs is an initiative started by Families Against Narcotics which aims to bring law enforcement and community organizations together in an effort to find viable treatment options for individuals seeking help to reduce dependency with heroin, prescription drugs, and alcohol. Any person struggling with addiction may seek help at any of the participating police agencies or via an online application, without fear of being arrested and prosecuted. They will be greeted with support, compassion, and respect by volunteers known as “Angels”.
- Frank Nagel
Mr. Nagle led the establishment of a referral and enrollment system that identified individuals at higher risk for hypertension and diabetes. Frank also led the creation of a vegetable prescription program that resulted in 89% of clients eating more fruits and vegetables. Frank also expanded the Diabetes Prevention Program to 331 Lenawee residents with an average weight loss of 6.6%.
- Ty and Johanna Schmidt (El Grupo Norte)
The Schmidts founded El Grupo Norte! to help build a stronger, better connected and more walk/bike friendly Traverse City by empowering the young and young at heart. Norte! currently operates 13 separate Bike Trains from 8 neighborhoods to 5 different elementary schools. They also founded the Traverse City Youth Leadership Council named “El Liderato”, made up of young men and women ages 13-18 who are dedicated to a stronger, better connected and more walk/bike friendly community.
- Southwest Michigan Behavioral Health
To combat the opioid epidemic, SMBH developed a naloxone/Narcan overdose program to provide Narcan kits to first responder agencies and community members. They have also developed a train-the-trainer program for law enforcement agencies. To date, this program has reported 202 overdose reversals.
- Jennifer Strange
The initiatives Jennifer Strange has undertaken as Behavioral Health Manager at Traverse Health Clinic have expanded access to behavioral health and counseling services to the underserved and low-income members of our community -- including the area's homeless population -- and have moved to enhance these services to ensure they are of the highest standards possible.
- Theresa White

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Theresa was instrumental in implementing the Pathways to Potential (P2P) program within the Pontiac School District. P2P is a program that makes referrals to a Public Health Nurse for families that have truancy problems, possibly related to health issues. After receiving 62 referrals last year, Theresa has been approved to implement an increase in the number of students she is able to support. This new program will provide families in need with case management before reaching the point of absence.

- **Dr. Kenetra Young**

Dr. Kenetra Young is credited with expanding the Detroit Health Department's education and outreach efforts during the hepatitis A outbreak. She led prevention and intervention efforts by strengthening interdepartmental coordination and providing direct engagement to community groups and health professionals. She also made presentations on hepatitis A to residents and community partners, wrote articles about the outbreak and assisted with the translations of brochures and flyers to ensure all residents could understand the information.

2018 Jean Chabot Health Policy Champion Award

- **Representative Sylvia Santana**

Representative Santana tirelessly advocates for the health and wellness of her constituency. She has hosted several events in her district including a child passenger safety workshop and brought legislators to Detroit to highlight a community health care organization. She has also been an active member of the House C.A.R.E.S. (Community, Access, Resources, Education and Safety) task force and has worked diligently to help develop policy solutions to the opioid crisis, and reform mental health services across the state of Michigan.

- **Representative Hank Vaupel**

Representative Vaupel has served diligently as the chairman of the House Health Policy Committee. He has championed vital topics such as encouraging the safe surrendering of newborns, providing information concerning available resources to parents of children with spina bifida, and supporting training in opioid overdoses for medical first responders and paramedics.

- **Ottawa County Health Department**

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a national public health preparedness recognition program established by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). By working with response partners in their communities to meet the PPHR criteria, these agencies have strengthened and improved their community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from,

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emergencies and disasters. After nearly two years of preparation, the Ottawa County Health Department joins with 8 other local health departments in Michigan and over 400 others across the country to be recognized since 2004. Thank you and congratulations on this great accomplishment keeping our local communities healthy and safe in emergencies.

2017 Hometown Health Hero Award

- Najah Bazy, RN (Zaman International)
 - Ms. Najah Bazy demonstrated her passion for, and commitment to, the marginalized in Southeast Michigan by founding Zaman International. Zaman International is a non-profit organization that transforms the households they serve from a hand-out to a hands-on status. Over the past ten years, Zaman International has served over 145,000 people in Southeast Michigan.
- Erica Canales, MD
 - Dr. Erica Canales is an obstetrician-gynecologist in Saginaw, Michigan who spent over 10 years in private practice before joining CMU Health Partners. Dr. Canales is responsible for implementing Centering Pregnancy in Saginaw, a proven care model that has improved outcomes for both mom and baby and that nearly eliminates racial disparities in preterm birth. Through her passion, drive, and energy, she and other providers are taking aim at reducing the infant mortality rate in the Saginaw Bay area.
- Dan Farrow, EMT-P, MESI
 - Mr. Farrow, as part of the Mecosta County Ambulance Service child death review team, thought there was more he could do to lower the second highest child death rate in a Michigan county. On his own initiative, Mr. Farrow became a trainer in the Direct On-Scene Education (DOSE) program. DOSE is a proven safety program that reduces infant mortality and child deaths through in-home safety trainings by first responders. Then Mr. Farrow persuaded the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners to allocate funding so he could personally train local first responders and implement the program.
- Amy Peterson, MPH (Teen HYPE)
 - Over the past two decades, Ms. Peterson has worked in public health, primarily in the area of STD Prevention. In addition to her commitment to public health service, in her personal time she serves as a member of the Board of Directors for Teen-HYPE, a movement to empower Detroit youth to thrive while strengthening their communities by providing them with the education, resources and mentorship they need to succeed. Amy uses her nationally recognized public health expertise, along with her

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personal commitment to Teen-HYPE, to make a positive impact on the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of youth in the City of Detroit.

- Barry Schmidt, MPH, CPC-R
 - Mr. Schmidt has conducted 5 Bay County Heroin Summits to educate and bring awareness of the heroin abuse crisis in area communities. Barry engaged a diverse partnership, including law enforcement, private businesses, recovering addicts and survivors, schools, the judicial system, policymakers, area youth, the Bay-Arenac Great Start Collaborative and many more. The summits have been widely publicized and have cast attention to the issue, resulting in individuals seeking help and treatment.
- Barbara Smith, RN

As an emergency department nurse, Ms. Smith saw first-hand what can happen when people, especially children, do not use water resources safely. Her commitment to her community resulted in her seeking permission from hospital administration to apply for a grant to put on classes in the elementary schools. She received the grant and has worked with county EMS agencies to develop a curriculum. The local school district has given their permission for these classes to start in the spring of 2017 and we look forward to its success.
- Washington Square Recycling Committee

In 2013 the Committee began cultivating a healthier work environment by incorporating the 3R's (recycle, reuse, and reduce) in the Washington Square Building. Since the beginning of the committee's inception, there has been a continuous increase in participation in recycling activities among employees working in this ten-story building. A few of their efforts have included.

 - Creation of an island of misfits where unwanted office supplies are reused by others in the building.
 - Development of a website where educational materials are available,
 - Providing on-going staff education resulting in purchases of recycled office products and improving recycling practices.
 - In one year, nearly 19,000 pounds of material was recycled from the building.
 - In addition to supporting the efforts within the building, members regularly use their own time to take items not recycled by the State of Michigan (batteries, CFLs, etc.) to outside recycling facilities.

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2017 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion

- Senator Jim Marleau
 - Senator Marleau is a longtime supporter of recommended childhood vaccinations, working to align Michigan’s school immunization reporting requirements with national recommendations. He sponsored legislation to address high immunization waiver rates in Michigan and as a result we are already seeing a reduction in the number of waivers as parents learn more about the importance of vaccine-preventable diseases. This past year, Senator Marleau worked collaboratively with his colleagues to increase funding for the kickoff of a statewide media campaign, “IVaccinate”, which provides information and tools based on medical science and research to help Michigan parents protect their kids.
- Senator Jim Stamas

When residential drinking water wells located near the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda became contaminated with perfluorinated chemicals, chemicals used in fire retardants, Senator Stamas led the effort to supply safe drinking water to affected residents in the community. Working with the local health department (District Health Department #2), Congressman Dan Kildee, the Michigan Departments of Agriculture and Rural Development and Health and Human Services, and Oscoda Township, Senator Stamas secured grant funding to provide municipal water to affected homes. He also led the passage of legislation that would require the United States military to pay for municipal water hook-up for impacted communities facing similar situations in the future.
- Representative Pam Faris
 - As the Flint Water Emergency evolved, Representative Pam Faris worked tirelessly for residents of Genesee County. She has been an advocate for Genesee County on the Department of Health & Human Services budget and works in a bipartisan fashion for continued funding to improve access to physical and behavioral health services, provide case management services, provide access to nutrition services and nutrition education, and to ensure a healthy Flint community. Rep. Faris went further and worked to notify Genesee County residents on the availability of services in their community funded through the DHHS budget. Thank you, Representative Faris, for your ongoing support in addressing public health recovery efforts in Flint.
- Theresa M Covington, MPH
 - Ms. Covington implemented the Child Death Review process in Michigan in 1995. More than 1,300 professional volunteer representatives from across the state attend meetings to discuss the circumstances involved in the death of individual

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children and explore opportunities to prevent future deaths. Since 2003, Teri has directed the National Center for Fatality Review and Prevention. In the past year, she worked with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, HRSA's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Centers for Disease Control, the Department of Defense, and others to facilitate the use of Child Death Review findings to inform program planning and prevent child deaths.

- Debbie Edokpolo, MSW
Ms. Edokpolo has been instrumental in institutionalizing health equity and social justice as a core value and core practice at the Ingham County Health Department (ICHHD). As a result of her passion and commitment, the health department developed a four-day Health Equity and Social Justice (HESJ) dialogue-based workshop training for staff and community members. This workshop has been provided nearly 50 times since 2005 across the state and across the nation.
- Macomb County Health Department (Project Public Health Ready)
 - William Ridella, MPH, MBA, Health Officer
 - Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a national public health preparedness recognition program established by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). By working with response partners in their communities to meet the PPHR criteria, these agencies have strengthened and improved their community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, emergencies and disasters. After nearly two years of preparation, the Macomb County Health Department joins with 7 other local health departments in Michigan and over 400 others across the country to be recognized since 2004.
- Joshua Meyerson, MD
- Robert G. Schirmer, MD
Dr. Meyerson and Dr. Schirmer raised the issue of Tobacco 21 in 2014, asking what Michigan could do. As a result of their commitment to tobacco prevention and control activities, a Coalition of partners, including both Dr. Meyerson and Dr. Schirmer, began meeting regularly in 2015. This coalition has grown to include local, state, and national level partners. These doctors have met with legislators, provided educational presentations on Tobacco 21, offered public testimony, and have written letters to the editor and letters of support in an effort to change policy. The city of Ann Arbor and Genesee County now have Tobacco 21 laws on the books.

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2016 Hometown Health Hero Award

- Colleen Chadderton
Ms. Chadderton organized two free clinics each year for the Head Start program in the Jackson area. In the course of the last school year, these clinics provided health care to 497 children, which is about 65 percent of all children enrolled in the Jackson area Head Start program.
- Project Bismutha
Project Bismutha's mission is to educate on healthcare accountability while providing resources and opening access to primary-care professionals and medical facilities for the at-risk, disadvantaged, and new Iraqi and Syrian immigrant populations. The core value of their approach is to ensure maximization of efficiencies on social and human services delivery models as well as participatory neighborhood development and revitalization led by improved health outcomes.
- Leslie Neubecker-Czubko
In 2010, Ms. Neubecker-Czubko opened a Farmers Market at the Eaton Rapids Medical Center. She pursued making fresh, local produce available to everyone in the greater Eaton Rapids community, regardless of financial situation by securing the ability of the Farmers' Market to accept EBT and Bridge cards; she also arranged for free transportation to and from the farmer's market. All this in addition to her normal job as a dietician at the hospital.
- Jeanne Wigant
Ms. Wigant, a medical student, has participated in Hope Warming Shelter's medical clinic serving the homeless population for over a year. She has been able to identify the characteristics of certain disease processes and helped in developing a plan of action and has assisted staff reach conclusions about a plan of care. Jeanne has developed a warm and trusting relationship with clinic guest and providing guest with visual aids and information concerning recognition of infectious disease and the importance of vaccination.

2016 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion Award

- The Honorable Donald Allen, Jr.
In 2008, Judge Allen was appointed to the 55th District Court by Governor Granholm where he presided over sobriety court. In 2016, he was made chief judge. The court promotes treatment instead of incarceration. Successes include reduced recidivism, family reunification and moving non-violent drug-offenders into treatment versus

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incarceration. Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Allen served as director for the Michigan Office of Drug Control Policy.

- Dr. Robert Graham

In the 23 years he served as medical director for the Central Michigan District Health Department, Dr. Graham has worked to transform the health of all of the residents covered by the Health Department. He took on another 10-county district health department, when he was already responsible for 9 counties in Central Michigan and Mid-Michigan District Health Departments. He was integral in quality improvement projects, and he was part of the CMDHD's successful effort to become nationally recognized by the Public Health Accreditation Board, and lastly, he cared deeply about every staff person, their families, and every client we served. He was adamant that every client had their immunizations up to date, that every person was treated with respect.

- Dr. Harvey Lee

In 2014 Public Act 187 was passed requiring all Michigan K-12 school districts stock epinephrine in schools for responding to an anaphylaxis emergency. Epinephrine requires a physician written prescription. School districts were challenged to find a prescribing physician until Dr. Harvey Leo agreed to write the prescriptions statewide. This allowed schools in Michigan to join a national program where they could obtain these Epi-Pens free of charge. In 2015 Dr. Leo wrote 500 prescriptions for epi-pens. This effort is in addition to maintaining a busy pediatric practice.

- Sharon Mortensen

Ms. Mortensen provided needed leadership to the Midland Community to come together and secure the funding needed to complete a major survey of our community through a partnership with Saginaw Valley State University. She also helped to gather health data from other areas to help to narrow down priorities for improving health in the community. Sharon pulled together leaders from various sectors of the community, involving partners that aren't always at the table together. As a result, Midland has a comprehensive plan and is starting efforts in several areas to improve the health and well-being of the community. All of this is in addition to her normal work at the Midland Area Community Foundation.

- Berrien County Health Department (Project Public Health Ready)

- Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency (Project Public Health Ready)

Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a national public health preparedness program established by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). By working with response partners in their communities to develop and

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enhance their plans and processes to meet the PPHR criteria, these agencies have strengthened and improved their community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, emergencies and disasters. After nearly two years of preparation, these 2 local health departments join 7 other local health departments in Michigan and over 400 others across the country to be recognized since 2004.

2015 Hometown Health Hero Awards

- Elizabeth Kelly

Ms. Kelly has advocated for the homeless for a number of years. Her latest endeavor is to provide recuperative care to persons discharged “to home” from the hospital, who have no home to go to. In conjunction with Oakland County Health Division, Elizabeth has worked to secure commitments of support for a recuperative care center to provide this type of care on a larger scale. With determination and perseverance, she has gathered community partners, gained support, secured funding and is now on the cusp of opening a 10-bed unit to provide this care.
- Thomas Pirnstill
 - o Mr. Pirnstill and his wife, Paula, started a health and safety fair in Clare County, to provide free medical screenings, publications, meeting one-on-one with health professionals, local organizations and businesses that provide health and safety information for those who need them but otherwise cannot afford them. Following the death of his wife the organizing committee renamed the health fair in her honor. Mr. Pirnstill also started a program to gather usable medical equipment from people who didn't need them anymore and give them to people that did need them, for free. He also advocated with Rep. Joel Johnson for legislation that would allow for the re-use of certain prescription medication still in their original containers by select organizations for the benefit of others. Mr. Pirnstill is the director of the Clare County Transit Corporation.
- Octavia Smith

Ms. Smith is a Community Health Worker employed at a Federally Qualified Health Center in Inkster, doing exemplary work to facilitate access to services, increase health knowledge, promote self-sufficiency, and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery within the community. Outside of her job, she organized adolescent girls and their mothers at a local library and taught basic women's health education, providing a safe place for young women to ask questions and engage in dialogue about issues that directly impact them. Ms. Smith also advocates for community health workers through her participation in national level organizations.

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2015 Jean Chabut Health Policy Champion Awards

- Allegan County Health Department
- Barry-Eaton District Health Department
- Calhoun County Health Department
- Ionia County Health Department
- Kent County Health Department
- Van Buren-Cass District Health Department

This year we are honoring seven local health departments for achieving the national recognition of being Project Public Health Ready. Project Public Health Ready (PPHR) is a national public health preparedness program established by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO). Through PPHR, local health departments demonstrate preparedness and response capability and capacity through a nationally recognized set of criteria that must be met to achieve PPHR recognition. These comprehensive criteria are focused on three goal areas: all-hazards planning, workforce development, and demonstration of readiness through exercises and real events. PPHR is a rigorous program that requires a tremendous amount of dedication, time, and collaborative partnership. By working with response partners in their communities to develop and enhance their plans and processes to meet the PPHR criteria, these agencies have strengthened and improved their community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from, emergencies and disasters. After nearly two years of preparation, these seven local health departments join nearly 400 others across the country to be recognized since 2004.

2014 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Access to Care Task Force—St. Joseph County
This collaborative group increased access to healthcare in a medically underserved area. They completed a community health assessment fulfilling the health department's accreditation requirements and leading to the establishment of a federally qualified health center in Centreville.
- Stephen Borders, PhD. (Grand Valley State University, Kent County)
As a professor at Grand Valley State University Dr. Borders has continued to stay active in the community to both improve public health and engage his students in hands on public health projects. In an effort to develop a coordinated response to hunger, he and a team of students developed a website (www.ocfpc.org), and a mobile version of the website for smart-phone users, to link the needy to food pantries and organizations that can assist.

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- **Wayman Britt (Kent County)**
Kent County residents on Medicaid or underinsured had very little access to dental care. Mr. Britt coordinated a project to purchase a property and repurpose it as a community health clinic with a dental clinic in partnership with Michigan Community Dental Clinics. He worked to generate the needed funds through donations from community organizations and through public dollars. He also played an essential role in creating Kent County Stair Week 2013. Buildings with elevators were presented with “Take the Stairs” signs and people were encouraged to make healthy/active choices.
- **Joy Gleason (Ingham County)**
Ms. Gleason is a volunteer connecting people of all backgrounds with resources on how to get, grow, prepare, and eat healthy, fresh, foods. She coordinated transportation services to ensure a broad-based attendance at the 2014 Everybody Eats Conference. She now volunteers with the Health in All Policy Work Group and is passionate about creating a more just and sustainable food system.
- **Rachel Haltiner (Clare County)**
Ms. Haltiner is a Parent Liaison for the Clare-Gladwin Great Start Collaborative. In that role she has reached out to other organizations and spearheaded the Worldwide Day of Play and the National Food Day in Clare & Gladwin Counties. These two projects alone have helped improve the health of over 1,100 children through physical activity and lessons on healthy food and nutrition.
- **Kathy Mayo (Baraga County)**
Ms. Mayo is the Tribal Health Director for the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community. She directs the Special Diabetes Program for Indians, providing incentives to engage members one-on-one. She also developed a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) to prepare the Tribal Health Center and Community for Public Health Accreditation and serves as President of the Tribal College Board of Regents and the emergency preparedness coordinator for the tribe.
- **Noreen Rechlin (Gladwin County)**
Ms. Rechlin is the force behind the fund-raising for the “Backpack Buddies Program.” This program bridges the weekend gap by providing nutritious food for needy children over the weekend during the school year. Working in collaboration with a regional food bank, \$100 is all it takes to provide a backpack of food for a needy child for the entire school year.
- **Julie Rosekrans (Harrison, MI)**

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Ms. Rosekrans is the principal of Larson Elementary School in Harrison and started the Harrison Community Garden. The garden consists of 25 varieties of trees that provide fresh fruit, and 23 garden beds that contain a variety of vegetables and fruits. Under Julie's supervision, students tend the garden throughout the summer months while enrolled in a summer learning program. The garden has grown to benefit the entire community.

- **School Tele-Health Clinic - CHC of Branch County**
The Community Health Center (CHC) recognized that an access to health care problem existed among families with school-aged children. They realized this issue needed to be addressed making the best use of limited community resources. Their solution was a tele-health clinic model, and with the help of a MDCH transformational Healthcare Grant, the tele-health clinic became a reality and is now operational.
- **Kevin Weir (Houghton, Keweenaw, Baraga, Ontonagon Counties)**
Mr. Weir became a new Sexual Violence Coordinator in October of 2013, and immediately brought innovation and creativity to the work of prevention of violence against women. He developed the Healthy Man Beard & Essay Contest (50% beard & moustache competition, 50% healthy masculinity essay/video clip competition), the top 2 essays were printed in their entirety in the local newspaper. The event, and accompanying media campaign, resulted in widespread community awareness and support for healthy masculinity and violence prevention efforts.

2014 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- Senator Jim Ananich (D) 27th District
- Senator John Moolenaar (R) 36th District
Senators Ananich and Moolenaar introduced recent bills to help promote training more primary care doctors with the loan repayment program.
- Representative Phil Cavanaugh (D) 10th District
Representative Cavanaugh is championing integrated health care.
- Representative Gail Haines (R) 43rd District
Representative Haines is working to raise awareness on the issue of infant mortality.
- Representative Matt Lori (R) 59th District
Representative Lori is championing the fight against childhood obesity.

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2013 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- **Autism Alliance of Michigan (AAoM)**
AAoM trained over 4,000 first responders, such as police, fire fighters, and ambulance drivers on the appropriate way to handle emergency situations involving individuals with autism. The training will soon be expanded to retailers and staff at family entertainment businesses. Also launched a technology initiative to provide house alarms and tracking systems to families of children with autism to prevent injury.
- **KidzKare, Inc.**
KidzKare provided a free health clinic and screening event for almost 400 uninsured and underinsured children in the greater Rochester Hills area. The event resulted in 130 referrals for follow-up health, vision, hearing, or dental services with free or Medicaid providers. The event was provided in collaboration with Kidz 1st Pediatrics, allowing for \$70,000 worth of services to be provided using grants totaling \$1750. That is a 40-fold return on investment.
- **Kimberly Anne Gillary Foundation, KAYLA Foundation, and Wes Leonard Heart Team**
These foundations assist schools by donating automated external defibrillators (AEDs), providing AED training, and promoting CPR/AED drills to prevent deaths due to sudden cardiac arrest. To date, over 600 schools have received AEDs and training.
- **Jim McGibbon**
Mr. McGibbon volunteers his time as a Child Passenger Safety Technician at child car seat safety events throughout Southeast Michigan, helping families to correctly install car safety seats and mentoring other volunteers. Last year, he was involved in programs that included the check of over 1500 car seats and distribution of 450 new seats to families in need.
- **Lynn Saunders and Charmaine Stone**
As leaders of the Little River Casino and Resort Health and Wellness Committee, Ms. Saunders and Ms. Stone created employee programs to encourage healthy eating and healthy behaviors. Their efforts have increased awareness of the importance of healthy choices among the property's nearly 1000 employees.

2013 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- Jean C. Chabut

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Dedication and commitment to protecting our vulnerable citizens is a critical component to ensuring that the services provided by the Michigan Department of Community Health are truly improving lives. Since 1982, Jean's achievements during her time at the Michigan Department of Community Health exemplify just how significant that commitment can be. Throughout her entire professional career, spanning more than 45 years, Jean has served Michigan residents faithfully through a vast array of programs and services to improve the overall wellbeing of our state.

- **Clare-Gladwin Health Improvement Group**
This group of community leaders began work in 2010 to plan and enact policies and services to improve the health outcomes in Clare and Gladwin Counties. Members include local health care organizations, educational institutions, human service agencies, and government agencies, which worked together to establish a common mission statement and formalized operating agreements that improved the provision of care and other services. They also established new services and programs to address identified health needs in the counties, resulting in improvements in the health rankings for both counties.
- **James Phillips, MD**
Dr. Phillips is a retired family physician who went on to become the Medical Director for the Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency, obtaining a master's in public health. Dr. Phillips has advocated for the establishment of a local public health fund, lent his expertise to local rails to trails efforts, and working through the Michigan State Medical Society he has promoted the adoption of expedited partner therapy legislation to curb the spread of sexually transmitted diseases.

2012 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- **Marsialle Arbuckle - Center for Urban Youth and Family Development, Detroit**
Ms. Arbuckle started the Center for Urban Youth and Family Development to offer substance abuse prevention, social skills development, academic and conflict resolution services to at-risk youth in the foster care system. Mr. Arbuckle involves youth in Detroit City Council meetings and community outreach programs.

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- Vision Priority Team 6 - MDCH Laboratory, Lansing created a volunteer-based annual community garden, which provides approximately 100 pounds of produce to the Greater Lansing Food Bank to be distributed to individuals with limited access to fresh and healthy food options.
- Karyn Juntunen - Winter sports exercise program developer, Hancock developed a winter sports exercise program for individuals with disability or little experience. Ms. Juntunen engaged over 50 individuals with mental health issues, students from special education programs and other community members to participate in weekly activities, empowering everyone involved.
- Kevin and Tammy Epling - Anti-bullying leaders, East Lansing
The Epling's 14-year-old son (Matt) had been a victim of bullying at school. In 2002, Matt took his own life because of the bullying. Since then, the Eplings have worked tirelessly to reduce bullying in schools. Their efforts were rewarded when the Michigan legislature passed a law requiring schools to have an antibullying policy.
- Belinda Thurston - Just B Yoga, Lansing offers a variety of yoga and tai chi donation-based classes accessible to all people in Lansing regardless of cost or physical capability. Just B Yoga studio creates an environment for healthier living, social justice and activism through community outreach and volunteerism.
- Livingston County Community Alliance, Livingston County mobilized community members to address substance abuse issues in their area by implementing permanent drug collection units to potentially reduce prescription drug misuse and increasing community awareness. In three months, the barrels collected over 85 pounds of medications and serves as a model program for other areas in the state.
- Cathy Goike - Girls on the Run program, Alpena originated the Girls on the Run program, which builds an environment to encourage lifetime self-esteem, emotional and physical health through running and mentoring activities to help young girls avoid risky behaviors.
- Sushma Reddy, MD - "Walk for Summer Reading" program, St. Clair County initiated a "Walk for Summer Reading" program in low-income communities which rewards elementary school children with books for exercise. The program has expanded county-wide to include 5,800 participants resulting in healthy behavior of students.

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- **Girls Group, Inc. - Ann Arbor**
provides mentoring, counseling, trainings, and tools to empower African American youth and family members. These activities enhance the young girls' overall social, emotional, and physical health outcomes as they pursue higher education and become first generation college students. More than 20 girls have successfully completed high school and gone on to college following their participation in Girls Group, Inc.
- **Cheryl Griffin -Lifestyle Counselor, Manistee, Lake, Wexford, and Newaygo counties**
brought together local agencies and organizations to develop programming that provides increased access to food, nutrition education, entrepreneurial gardening opportunities, physical activity classes, smoking cessation classes and advocacy development among community members in rural areas.
- **Deb Hardcastle - "Safe Sleep for Infants" program, Washtenaw County**
worked as a volunteer coordinator to reduce preventable infant death by teaching newborn care and tools for healthy parenting to families in Washtenaw County.
- **Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Program, Ottawa, and Allegan counties**
created a safe environment outside of the emergency room for more than 60 victims of sexual assault annually. The program brings greater awareness to sexual assault, delivers medical services, provides emotional support 24 hours a day and assists women in the first steps towards healing and recovery.
- **Ann Siegle - Capital Area Breastfeeding Coalition, Lansing**
provided design and public relations expertise to the Capital area breastfeeding coalition to create a social media campaign. Ms. Siegle's volunteer dedication increased breastfeeding awareness, prevalence and duration as well as provide information to policymakers and the public.

2012 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- **Laura Fitzpatrick - Liquor Control Advisory Rules Committee**
Ms. Fitzpatrick is a long-time advocate for creating a healthier Michigan, both as a volunteer and through her roles with the Association of Local United Ways and the Muskegon Community Health Project. In 2011, Ms. Fitzpatrick was appointed to the Liquor Control Advisory Rules Committee, where she was the only representative of public health. As a member of this committee, Ms. Fitzpatrick volunteered her time to attend semi-monthly meetings in person in order to advocate for the retention of

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many of the current regulations that protect the health and safety of Michigan's communities.

- Denise Holmes - Retired public health leader; formerly with MSU and MDCH
Ms. Holmes has a lengthy record of providing leadership on the development and implementation of policies created to improve the health of Michigan. She recently retired as the Associate Dean for Government Relations and Outreach at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine, where she was the Dean's representative in matters of health policy and legislation. Ms. Holmes was also the Director of the Institute for Health Care Studies at MSU, which works with state government and health care organizations in Michigan around health policy and outcome research. Before coming to MSU, Ms. Holmes worked for the State of Michigan for 32 years, where she was responsible for the development and promulgation of all Medicaid policies established by the state, including the creation of the MICHILD Program.
- Meijer Healthy Living Team - Meijer, Inc.
In 2009, the Meijer Health Living Team made a commitment to provide easier access to nutrition information through implementation of a nutrition scoring system throughout all their stores. The Meijer Healthy Living Team was charged with identifying a quality tool that would be scientifically based and accessible to customers. Members of the team actively advocated with Meijer leadership to implement the NuVal system, including securing the financial resources needed to score and create new tags for 90% of the 46,000 products offered by Meijer. In addition, their work has led to the reformulation of some Meijer brand products to improve their NuVal scores, thus improving their nutritional value.
- Susan Smolinske - Children's Hospital of Michigan Regional Poison Control Center
Dr. Smolinske is a national expert on designer drugs and works with MDCH to monitor Poison Control Center reports to detect emerging drug problems in Michigan. She has worked with MDCH to create an early warning system that aids the Department in identifying potential abuse problems earlier and to be more responsive to local problems. The benefits of her efforts were evident in a recent outbreak in Marquette, where she worked with concerned community members to address an outbreak of "bath salts" poisonings. The information gathered about these cases by Dr. Smolinske and her MDCH partners allowed the Marquette County Health Officer to issue an Emergency Order banning further sale of these substances, which stopped the outbreak.

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- Kenneth E. Warner - Avedis Donabedian Distinguished University Professor of Public Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health
Dr. Warner is the Avedis Donabedian Distinguished University Professor of Public Health at the University of Michigan School of Public Health, where he also served as Dean from 2005-2011. His research has focused on the economic and policy aspects of disease prevention and health promotion, with an emphasis on tobacco and health. Dr. Warner has a distinguished history of providing leadership on efforts to shape policy related to nicotine and tobacco use and has served on multiple panels and task forces and as an advisor on this issue at the state and national level. Dr. Warner was a key resource for public health advocates during efforts to enact the Dr. Ron Davis Smoke Free Law and he continues to support public health efforts in Michigan through his research.
- Jessica Yoriko - Environmental Justice Coordinator, Ingham County Health Department
Ms. Yoriko has been an active community leader on issues of environmental health and justice, working to create communities that are safe and where everyone can make healthy choices. She played an active role at the local level to create and pass the first Complete Streets Ordinance in Michigan, with similar legislation since adopted statewide. She has also led other community efforts focused on transportation, food, land use, employment, neighborhood development policies and system changes. Through her own consulting company, as a Lansing City Council member, and in her role at the Ingham County Health Department, Ms. Yoriko has helped to shape policies to create equitable access to environmental and health benefits.
- Representative Lesia Liss of the 28th District
- Representative Matt Lori of the 59th District
- Senator Jim Marleau of the 12th District
- Senator Rebekah Warren of the 18th District
Through their work on the House and Senate Health Policy committees these four legislators guided Public Act 83 of 2012 to a unanimous vote in both the House and the Senate. This act provides workers compensation insurance coverage to volunteers deployed through the Michigan Volunteer Registry to respond during major emergencies. No longer will volunteers have to worry if they get injured while helping their fellow citizens during a disaster.

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2011 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Gary Domerese - Clio Area Fire Department, Clio Led numerous new safety initiatives throughout the community. As the Fire Chief of the Clio Fire Department, Gary has consistently gone above and beyond his expected duties.
- Keith Eichler - Branch County Sheriff's Department, Coldwater Oversees the Get STOPPED (Sheriffs Telling Our Parents and Promoting Educated Drivers) program. Over and over again, Keith goes beyond the scope of his normal job duties and freely volunteers his extra time toward community activities. Through his efforts, Branch County is a healthier, safer county.
- John Calvert - Country Elementary Safe Routes to School Task Force, Pinckney Chairs the local Safe Routes to School Task Force. This community collaboration has shown unwavering commitment to improving the traffic safety conditions around the school in addition to encouraging more children to walk and/or bike to school.
- Jennifer Ritter - Safe Kids Northshore, Traverse City
- Tammie Budrow - Parent and child safety advocate, Safe Kids Northshore, Traverse City Tammi Budrow's daughter died in 2007 from a head injury sustained during a sledding accident. Tammie teamed up with Jennifer Ritter, a local Injury Prevention Coordinator, and together they established a children's winter sports safety program.
- Mike & Elaine Nevells and Lynne Page - Parents and child safety advocates, Okemos In 2009, the Nevells' son was killed in a car accident while leaving the Okemos High School parking lot. The Nevells and Lynne Page started a grass roots effort to bring the public safety issue of the speed limit on Jolly Road to the attention of the community. They finally prevailed and the speed limit was reduced to 45 mph on Jolly Road.
- Deb Carpenter - Bronson Hospital, Kalamazoo Volunteers for numerous activities that focus on creating safe and injury free environments for children. These efforts have included her commitment to the Kalamazoo County Safe Kids organization.
- George Sedlacek - Marquette County Health Department, Negaunee Implemented the Safe Routes to School program; worked with community partners to gain matching funds to qualify for a grant from MDOT in order to make this possible. These efforts are already paying off with an increasing number of students who are able to walk and/or ride bikes to school.

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- Ray Sharp - Western U.P. District Health Department, Hancock
Working with community partners to gain support for the implementation of the Complete Streets concept. Following the Complete Streets concept will result in more bike lanes, sidewalks, and other features that will result in a safer and more physically active community.
- Marie Bristow & Joann Burrington - POH Regional Medical Center, Pontiac
Implemented the POH Bike Helmet Safety Program, beginning in Spring 2008. This program focuses on educating 2nd graders on bike safety; results show that treatment at POH for bicycle accidents in the 6-10 age group has decreased 75% since this program began.
- Youth Empowerment Solutions for Peaceful Communities (YES Program), Dr. Marc Zimmerman - University of Michigan School of Public Health, Ann Arbor
YES focuses on areas of Flint and Genesee County with high levels of youth violence and crime. Through the YES program, high-risk youth have opportunities to learn specific empowerment skills, practice those skills, and establish the social and cognitive resources that will help them effectively navigate and change social settings.
- Madonna University Senior Nursing Students & Professor Margaret M. Gorman – Livonia
Working with the Infant Mortality Project in Highland Park, these students are choosing activities that they can do in addition to their required course work. They are focusing on practical, low-cost interventions to help reduce health disparities in an underserved population.

2011 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- Judge Thomas Shumaker - St. Joseph County Probate Court
Judge Shumaker spearheaded a collaborative initiative to develop and promote the St. Joseph County Vulnerable Adult Protocol and the resource tool kit the collaborative developed.
- Ken Rosenman, MD - Michigan State University
Dr. Rosenman initiated the SENSOR project. SENSOR is a sentinel event notification system. It generates reports that help target evaluation and intervention strategies to effectively identify workplaces in Michigan with occupational health problems. Over 20,000 reports are received annually.

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- Mouhanad Hammami, MD - Wayne County Health and Human Services
Dr. Hammami serves on the Executive Committee for Michigan's National Children Health Study Coalition. He is one of 11 community representatives to the Study's National Steering Committee.
- Senator John Proos of the 21st district
Senator Proos has been instrumental in crafting legislation that addresses the issue of obesity in Michigan.
- Senator Rick Jones of the 24th district
Senator Jones is recognized for his dedication to passing legislation concerning narcotics safety, particularly making K-2 a Schedule 1 controlled substance.
- Representative Joan Bauer of the 68th district
Representative Bauer has been instrumental in crafting legislation that addresses the issue of obesity in Michigan.
- Representative Jon Switalski of the 25th district
Representative Switalski has been instrumental in developing complete streets legislation.

2010 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Dr. Lisa Harrington - Grayling Family Practice Clinic and Mercy Hospice in Grayling
Instrumental in bringing together key community members to establish the AuSable Free Clinic in 2005 and served as the Medical Director. The clinic has provided quality health care for over 12,000 low income and uninsured citizens.
- Dr. Roderic Tinney - Pediatrician – Charlevoix
Serves Charlevoix County as the only pediatrician and is a critical partner with the local health department. He advocates for vaccinations in the community, and under his leadership, the Hepatitis B birth vaccination rates went from the worst to first in Northern Michigan in three years.

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- Barb Grinwis, PA - Oasis of Hope, Grand Rapids
In 2008 Barb and her husband Dan bought a storefront and set up the Oasis of Hope. This clinic provides low cost and free medical care and basic life skills education to members of the community.
- Angela Stevenson - Wayne County Department of Public Health
Volunteers to oversee multiple local health initiatives as well as providing education and motivation. These projects encourage good nutrition, exercise and healthy behaviors for all in the community.
- Jim Thomas - Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Upper Peninsula
- Don Britton - Iron Ore Heritage Trail, Upper Peninsula
Marquette County - Instrumental in bringing together 10 local municipalities to establish the 48-mile Iron Ore Heritage Trail (IOHT). This multi-use, year-round trail will connect people to the history and natural resources of the community.
- Rhona Colbert - Muskegon County Medical Reserve Corps
Muskegon County - Worked in conjunction with the Public Health Muskegon County and Emergency Services to develop and sustain the Muskegon County Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), providing critical assistance in volunteer vaccination clinics.
- Alicia Armstrong - Community Partners in Michigan, Lansing
Volunteers as Chair of Community Partners in Health (CPH), orchestrating the Winter Warm-up event and other initiatives in the community to encourage fitness, health and awareness of historical areas, neighborhoods, and parks.
- Arlene Brennan - Coalition Health Access Program, Grand Traverse County
Established the Coalition Health Access Program (CHAP) in 2005, a network of health providers and volunteers in Grand Traverse, Benzie, and Leelanau counties which donates basic health services for uninsured residents. CHAP also collaborated with the local community health clinic to form the Traverse Health Clinic, where up to 500 people receive primary care and dental services per month.
- Jonnie Hamilton - Detroit Black Nurses Association
In collaboration with the Detroit Health Department, implemented a mobile immunization clinic to provide services to children living in shelters and alternative living situations. Ms Hamilton also developed a program to improve the health of children by changing eating and exercise behaviors.
- Dawn Bause - Birmingham Community House, Metro Detroit

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Advocates for healthy eating and volunteers many hours teaching those in her community about better nutrition and how to incorporate locally grown produce into their meals. She is also a voluntary member of the Slow Food Board.

- Helen DeFlorio - MSU Extension, Ogemaw County
Provided education, training, and support to the low-income participants in the WISEWOMAN Gardening Project. Her efforts empower women to make long term healthy changes for themselves and sustain gardens in the community.

2010 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- Senator Ray Basham of the 8th district
- Senator Thomas George of the 20th district
- Senator Ron Jelinek of the 21st district
- Representative Joan Bauer of the 68th district
- Representative Gary McDowell of the 107th district
These 5 legislators were honored for their efforts in championing our new Clean Air Bill into law. Their outstanding work with their colleagues and advocates resulted in the passage of this law which is one of the most important policies passed in years to improve the health of the citizens of this state. The Public Health Community has been working to pass a Clean Air Law for over 20 years, and it is finally a reality.
- State Board of Education – Michigan
for their leadership and efforts to improve the health and nutrition of Michigan's school children
- Commissioner Evelyn Kolbe of Charlevoix County
for her leadership on the District 10 Board of Health and her leadership with the MAC and MALPH.

2009 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Social Justice Facilitator Team, Ingham County Health Department (Lansing, MI)
in Lansing for their efforts to address health equity and social justice in authentic collaboration with the community they serve.
- Delta-Schoolcraft Intermediate School District (Escanaba, MI)
for the district's accomplishments in emergency preparedness and safe school initiatives. The district has received national recognition for these innovative programs.

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- Genesys Maternal Infant Health Program (Flint, MI)
for their willingness to improve the lives of new mothers and reduce infant mortality in Genesee County despite daunting challenges.
- Dan Gorman (Montague, MI)
for the farm to school collaborative and other programs he has implemented to improve the health of students in the Montague School District
- James Hiller, CEO, Hiller's Markets (Southfield, MI)
for his decision to stop selling tobacco products in his stores due to the negative health effects of second-hand smoke.
- David M. Luoma, MD, MMM, CPE (Marquette, MI)
for the many things he does to promote health in the Upper peninsula such as caring for low-income patients in an underserved area, increasing immunizations rates, providing leadership to the area Geriatric Education Scholars Program, and the Northern Area Health Education Center.
- Sameer Ohri, DO (Pontiac, MI)
for his implementation of the Rocking Chair program and the diabetic medical group visits program during his residency.
- Patricia O'Neill (Grand Rapids, MI)
for her creative program dubbed "UFOS" which collects and distributes usable diabetic supplies from families with deceased loved ones to provide to the homeless and underserved in the community.
- Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital Riley Foundation (Pontiac, MI)
for the foundation's work to improve cancer screening among uninsured and under insured men and women.
- Kelly Potocki (Standish, MI)
for her work with families who have overcome monumental challenges.

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- Lucy Tomasi-McGuire (Cadillac, MI)
for her work to open and maintain the Cadillac Area Community Clinic with a mission to care for the low income and under-served of the area.
- Washtenaw Area Immunization Action Coalition (Ann Arbor, MI)
for bringing together diverse organizations to increase vaccinations for preventable diseases.

2009 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- U.S. Rep. John Dingell, Detroit area
for his efforts to expand the State Child Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and your ongoing leadership on health policy in Congress.
- U.S. Rep. Fred Upton, Kalamazoo
For his co-sponsorship of the Labeling Education and Nutrition Act, which will aid efforts to curb, obesity and help individuals make healthier food choices.
- Rep. Gary McDowell, Cheboygan, Mackinaw City, St. Ignace, Sault St. Marie
for his efforts to support sufficient funding for Michigan's public health functions, including on-going support of the Healthy Michigan Fund.
- Rep. Alma Wheeler Smith, Ann Arbor
for her valuable help and dedication to building a healthy Michigan
- Sen. Ray Basham, Detroit area (downriver area)
for his leadership and continued efforts to pass smoke free workplace legislation in Michigan.
- Sen. Michele McManus, Big Rapids, Roscommon, Cadillac, Clare, Manistee, Kalkaska
for her sponsorship of last session's successful booster seat legislation, which is critical in better protecting Michigan's children from injury.
- Judge Paula Baird, Lansing
for her efforts to encourage potential adoptive parents to quit smoking, thus protecting children from the hazards of secondhand smoke.

2008 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Janet Kiley and Angela Glew from the MDCH Injury & Violence Prevention and Tobacco Prevention and Control Section.

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Janet Kiley and Angela Glew have inspired an entire floor of Community Health employees to start recycling Styrofoam and PET #1 Water Bottles. Both women continue to educate about the benefits of recycling and how an individual's small steps can make a big impact on reducing the effects of climate change.

- Thomas Buss of Traverse City spent a significant amount of his own time working to protect the residents of his community by spearheading an initiative to keep the waters of Grand Traverse Bay clean. Tom's work has focused on reducing E. coli levels by collaborating with local governments to pass ordinances to protect the watershed, conducting sanitary surveys of the watershed to identify contamination sources, and developing a beach model that can predict times of higher E. coli levels. Further, Tom has done a great deal to educate the public about this matter, by bringing together subject matter experts for a community forum.
- Drusilla Allen of the Wayne County Department of Public Health Ms. Allen is an employee of the Wayne County Department of Public Health. She has worked tirelessly as a volunteer member of the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission where she has served for 8 years. As a member of the Sumpter Township Parks Commission, Ms. Allen has been influential in helping to create a positive healthy recreational setting in the community. Some of her activities include: cleaning up the horse trails and walking trails by picking up and removing trash, downed trees and other debris in parks; bringing in sand to create a beach and swimming area; removing algae and putting algaecide in the water; repairing the fishing dock; stocking the pond with various fish species; putting together a playground kit, which contained swings, slides, and a climbing wall; and erecting two steel pavilion kits, manmade grills and picnic tables.
- Mel Visser of Portage Mel Visser has done an impressive amount of citizen advocacy work to rid the world's water and fish supplies of Toxaphene and other POPs. After retirement, Mel pursued his Upper Peninsula love of Lake Superior and fishing. He found out that toxaphene (a highly persistent organic pesticide) levels were still increasing even though those levels disappeared from the fishing guide information in Michigan and other states and provinces. Mr. Visser joined with others exploring the island ice floes of the Arctic where they confirmed high levels of POPs in the water and the people. These POPs were not used in the area but appeared in concentrations greater than where they were used.

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- The Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM) Coalition
The Alliance for Immunization in Michigan (AIM) Coalition, a partnership of public and private sector organizations, focuses on improving immunization services in Michigan. For more than 13 years, the AIM Coalition has strived to protect Michigan’s vulnerable residents from influenza and pneumococcal disease. AIM urges all immunization providers to utilize the AIM Provider Toolkit, a nationally recognized resource kit which serves as a valuable resource for providers. The kit contains current immunization schedules, news, and information on child, adolescent, and adult immunization practices, as well as information on talking to and educating families, and current vaccine storage practices and resources. More importantly, the AIM Coalition continues to work toward the goal of assuring that all of Michigan’s citizens are protected from all vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Kathryn Savoie of Dearborn
Dr. Savoie is a recognized leader in environmental health in Michigan. In her role with ACCESS, Dr. Savoie directs a department that promotes awareness among Arab Americans of environmental concerns and their impact on health. As a leader in environmental justice initiatives, both in Detroit and throughout Michigan, she is a founding member of Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice and serves on the Board of the Michigan Environmental Council and the Wayne County Global Warming Task Force. Dr. Savoie was also part of an environmental equity panel at last year’s Premier Public Health Conference. Notably, she was one of the original 50 individuals trained by Al Gore’s Climate Project and has made over 60 presentations to a variety of community groups, including grassroots organizations, neighborhood groups, health professional organizations, elected officials, schools, businesses, and retiree organizations. Her presentation specifically speaks to the impacts of climate change in Michigan, including public health, economic, and ecologic impacts and has been adapted for younger audiences.
- Jerome Chandler of Detroit
Jerome Chandler is a case manager working with the chronically homeless population in Detroit. He has worked tirelessly with this rapidly growing population to make sure they receive the necessary mental health and substance abuse treatment they need, and to help keep them from freezing during Michigan’s cold winter nights. From coaxing people out from under bridges to conducting six daily sweeps throughout the central business district, Jerome’s cheerful disposition and dedication to his work have helped link many clients to shelter and housing, substance abuse and mental health, in addition to other necessary services.

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- The Washtenaw Biking and Walking Coalition of Ann Arbor
Since its inception in 1999, the Washtenaw Bicycling and Walking Coalition (WBWC) has been a strong voice in the promotion of transportation options that make sense for sustainable and livable communities. Monthly membership meetings at the Ecology Center in Ann Arbor create a space for diverse stakeholders to join together to advance non-motorized transportation enhancement projects, policies, and education initiatives. The coalition recognizes that emissions caused by our culture’s over-reliance on cars are a significant contributor to climate change and other significant public health threats such as obesity, and they are working hard to promote walking and biking as valid transportation alternatives. The Coalition has a strong presence at community events, educating the public about the air quality, physical and mental health, and economic benefits of sustainable transportation, as well as how cyclists and car drivers can safely co-exist on our roads. Community Clinic of Ann Arbor.
- Packard Clinic
The Packard Community Clinic (PCC), a private non-profit family medicine practice, has been a champion of the medically underserved in Washtenaw County for over 35 years. The clinic’s mission is to provide access to top quality primary health care to those for whom cost would otherwise be a barrier. Seeing anyone, regardless of ability to pay, and subsidizing over half the visits to the clinic, Packard has provided care to many who would not have otherwise received care. Further, the clinic has prepared a full-time mental health clinician and a part-time psychiatrist, delivering “curbside” consultations, case management, and treatment services.
- Judy Weber, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator with the Mid-Michigan District Health Department in Stanton.
Judy Weber, from the Mid-Michigan District Health Department, has enabled a three-county area in central Michigan to plan and prepare for both local and more wide-scale emergencies. This has been implemented through collaboration and, according to her peers, diplomacy, and persistence since the program’s inception in 2002. In the case of a disaster in Clinton, Gratiot, or Montcalm counties, they’ve set up a coordinated and rapid response, expedited through a network that includes local social/health service agencies to provide assessment, communication, emergency care, and refuge. Ms. Weber has been recognized by her peers, and in 2007 received the EARN (Employee Achieving Recognized Notability) award for her continued commitment to the agency, community, and co-workers.

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2008 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- Sen. Liz Brater - (D-Ann Arbor)
 - For her long-term support of environmental and health issues, particularly mental health concerns.
- Sen. Tom George - (R-Texas Township)
 - For his work as chair of the health policy committee and his commitment to healthy lifestyle promotion.
- Rep. Kathy Angerer - (D-Dundee)
 - For her important role as the Chair of the Health Policy Committee as well as her recent work on Energy Efficiency Legislation.
- Rep. Ed Gaffney - (R- Grosse Pointe Farms)
 - For his leadership to improve environmental health, particularly for children.
- Rep. Fred Miller - (D-Mount Clemens)
 - Has introduced legislation that would limit coal production in Michigan (Rate Payer Protection Plan) and make coal plants plan for all their costs, including health care.

2007 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Michigan Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence, Ingham County
- Kathleen Kleinert, DO, Covenant Community Care, Inc., Wayne County
- Jenny Atas, MD, FACEP, Region 2 South Co-Medical Director, Detroit Medical Center, Wayne County
- Bill Fales, MD, FACEP, Region 5 Medical Director, Kalamazoo County
- Carol Klukas, RN, Berrien County
- Beal City Schools, Isabella County
- Grand Traverse County Health Department, Grand Traverse County
- Region 7 Biodefense Network, representing the counties of northwestern lower peninsula (Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Benzie, Leelanau, Grand Traverse County, Charlevoix, Alpena, Crawford, Kalkaska, Manistee, Wexford, Missaukee, and Roscommon)
- Mary L. Spalding-Antilla, Community Health Representative for the Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians, Gogebic County

2007 Michigan Health Policy Champions

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- State Representative Kathy Angerer-(D-Dundee)
- State Representative Edward Gaffney- (R-Grosse Pointe Farms)
- State Representative Gary McDowell-(D-Rudyard)
- State Senator Deb Cherry-(D-Burton)
- State Senator Gilda Jacobs- (D-Huntington Woods)

2006 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Bendle Public Schools, Genesee County
- Bridges to the Future, Durant-Tuuri-Mott Bridges Running Club, Genesee County
- City of Kalamazoo Department of Parks and Recreation
- City of Vassar, Tuscola County
- Dial Help, Inc., Houghton, Keweenaw, Ontonagon, and Baraga Counties
- Earth Works Garden, Detroit
- Genesee County Childhood Asthma Task Force
- Hale Area Schools, Ogemaw County
- Henry North Elementary School, Lansing
- Haskell Community Center, Flint
- Industrial Mutual Association Children's Recreation Fund, Flint
- Kingston Community School District, Tuscola County
- Lakeview High School, Battle Creek
- Marquette County Health Department, "Youth for Truth"
- Mixed Greens, Grand Rapids
- Okemos Public Schools, "Clean Air for School Buses Plus"
- Safe Kids Lakeshore
- Safe Kids Marquette-Alger Counties
- Safe Kids Muskegon County
- Safe Kids Van Buren County
- Washington Elementary School, Flint
- Washtenaw County (multiple programs)
- Women's Resource Center of Northern Michigan

2006 Michigan Health Policy Champions

- U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow
- Michigan Senator Deb Cherry
- Michigan Senator Beverly Hammerstrom
- Michigan Senator Michelle McManus

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- Michigan Senator Patti Birkholz
- State Representative Chris Kolb
- Scott Adkins, Vassar City Manager (Tuscola County)
- State Board of Education President Kathleen Straus

2005 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Mary Archambeau of Newberry.
- Christine Riddle of Lansing; Mary Stephens Ferris of Detroit.
- Deb Fisher of Alpena.
- The Pediatric and Adult Asthma Network of West Michigan in Grand Rapids:
- Elmer LeBlanc of Brimley:
- Mercy Health Clinic of Benton Harbor:
- Susan Clemen-Stone, RN, MPH of Ann Arbor

2004 Michigan Hometown Health Heroes

- Margarita Gonzales, East Lansing
- Nana Dompree, Flint · Sharon Dumas-Pugh, Detroit
- Barbara Lewis-Clark, Detroit
- John “Kip” Walker – Unionville
- John Fitzmaurice, St. Clair
- Sandra Spoelstra, Marquette
- Lori Wesolowski, Traverse City
- Allen Garbrecht, Battle Creek
- Paul Haan, Grand Rapids
- Kay Kearly, Alpena
- George and Judy Hemmeter, Saginaw Township
- Richard Mullally, Muskegon
- Harry Bonner, Albion
- Rev. James Hightower, Benton Harbor