Public Health Community Award Summaries 2008-2017

2017

Marilyn Johnson (Individual award)
Marilyn Johnson is an unsung hero in our community, from her roles caring for hospice and cancer patients and serving as a faith community nurse, to her volunteer role helping the homeless. Her long and distinguished nursing career has included supervising cancer care at Southwest Washington Medical Center, and serving as a parish nurse to combine medical and spiritual care. As the community coordinator for Faith Community Nursing/Health Ministries Northwest, she addresses the unique needs of various community populations and has taught a program on living well with chronic disease. As a volunteer, Marilyn has played a vital role in planning Project Homeless Connect each year, organizing and coordinating the health services, specifically foot care. She works with the community to obtain hygiene supplies for clients, and ensures there are enough volunteers, including nursing students, to provide these services. It's not an exaggeration to say that Marilyn Johnson embodies the heart of nursing in this community.

Rose Village Community Health Workers (Organization award)
The Rose Village Community Health Workers are trusted members of Vancouver's Rose Village neighborhood who understand the strengths, challenges, cultures, and life experiences of this community. The team focuses on community building activities through social events, resource fairs, and holiday and charity events. The team also works to prevent chronic disease by promoting healthy eating and opportunities for exercise. For example, they have worked with Public Health and schools to provide a soccer club for youth and physical activity classes for adults. They also started a local walking group. They have partnered with the food bank to bring fresh fruits and vegetables to the community during harvest season. And they partnered with WSU extension to teach parents how to prepare healthy meals on a budget. To promote health equity in Rose Village, team members have provided education and testimony to officials locally and in Olympia in support of policies that address lack of affordable housing and policies that help people make healthier choices, such as increasing the tobacco age. These community health workers go above and beyond to help the people who live in Rose Village.

HONORABLE MENTION
- Bike Clark County
  Promoting bicycle access, education, safety and the enjoyment of cycling to children and adults in Clark County
- Daybreak Youth Services
  Serving youth with addiction and mental health issues and helping them return to school, families and work.
- ESD112 Early Childhood Education Assistance Program
  Promoting healthy children in Southwest Washington through developmental screening and regular well-child checkups
- Sue Hoeffner
  Strengthening partnerships between faith organizations and schools to address community health issues
- Memorial Urgent Care Nurses
  Partnering with Public Health in sexually transmitted disease prevention by ensuring services for all, including the community’s most marginalized
- Charles Mitchell
  Advancing social justice for low-income clients by ensuring their access to affordable, quality healthcare
- Sue Neal
  Using leadership, advocacy, and compassion to ensure healthcare for the medically underserved in Battle Ground
- St Luke's/San Lucas Episcopal Church
  Addressing poverty and homelessness through volunteer outreach and compassion for all people
Joan Caley
Joan Caley's dedication to promoting public health includes serving on the Clark County Public Health Advisory Council since its formation in 2003, consistently advocating for health in all policies. A registered nurse and professor of nursing, Joan has motivated countless students over the decades, many of whom now serve our community. Her many publications and public speaking engagements influence healthcare direction and priorities across Washington. Her extensive community involvement includes membership with the Council for the Homeless and serving as a Vancouver Housing Authority commissioner and board director for Bridgeview Housing. In 2014, Joan Caley was inducted into the Washington State Nursing Hall of Fame.

PREVENT! Coalition
PREVENT! Coalition is a group of more than 300 diverse community members who donate their time to prevent youth substance abuse by providing education and resources, supporting healthy community-based activities, and facilitating networking across community sectors. PREVENT! has influenced local policy decisions, such as an ordinance limiting the display of drug paraphernalia in Vancouver and an ordinance to extend Smoking in Public Places laws to include vaping. PREVENT! is working on a point-of-purchase campaign to keep cannabis products out of youth's hands and a Youth Now Marijuana Prevention Initiative to bring youth voices to the cannabis conversation.

HONORABLE MENTION
- Clark College Phi Theta Kappa
  Organizing a community vaccine awareness event and raising awareness of violence against women
- Harney PTO
  Raising money for a new walking path, outdoor classroom area and nature play area at Harney Elementary
- Annette Klinefelter
  Removing barriers to drug and alcohol treatment for teens and expanding services for young people
- Lifeline Connections
  Implementing a no-tobacco policy for residents and staff and replacing smoking breaks with healthier ways to relax
- Community Services Northwest
  Leading efforts to provide community health services to Clark County's most vulnerable citizens
- Amy Sidran
  Teaching children about the origins of food, how to grow it, cook it, and keep it coming back year after year
- Syringe Services Program Volunteers
  Providing effective, non-judgmental services and techniques for harm reduction to a vulnerable population
2015

Melody Scheer
After spearheading the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry program in 2005, Melody Scheer recognized the need for improving access to dental care for uninsured, low-income adults, many of whom receive care only in emergency rooms. She envisioned a clinic that not only provides relief to those in pain, but one that was focused on preventing dental disease. Volunteering hours of her personal time, she persuaded social leaders to individuals and families with limited access to dental care. The clinic’s restorative dentistry service helps people realize their employment goals and improves their quality of life. The under-served of Clark County now have a ‘dental home’ to call their own, and it was created through Melody’s keen foresight, unrelenting drive, forging of community partnerships, and her tenacity to make it happen.

Battle Ground Health Care Clinic
Battle Ground Health Care is a free medical and dental clinic formed in 2011 to address a local shortage of primary care doctors and dental providers. Eighty volunteer medical, dental and support staff provide ongoing care for low-income patients ages 18 to 65 with little or no insurance. Patients are encouraged to play an active role in improving their health. The clinic has developed collaborative partnerships with area clinics that donate needed equipment, as well as providing laboratory and diagnostic tests for clinic patients. A faith-based community organization, Battle Ground Health Care’s work is made possible by sharing the time, talent and resources of individuals, businesses, churches and other local non-profit and for-profit clinics.

HONORABLE MENTION
• Russell Brent
  As the owner of Mill Creek Pub in Battle Ground, Russell Brent is passionate about building a healthier community and makes sure his local restaurant plays an active role in supporting the health of customers.
• Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center
  In order to increase access to influenza vaccinations, Legacy Health held free flu shot clinics on all five of its hospital campuses in November of 2014 to anyone six months and older. Staff and volunteers organized to vaccinate over 400 people against flu.
• Connie Osborne
  As a mental health counselor and hypnotherapist, Connie Osborne works to provide support to cancer patients and give people tools for healthy living.
• Deanna (Dee Dee) Russell
  A committed, compassionate professional, DeeDee Russell collaborates with local, regional, and state coalitions and birth to kindergarten agencies in the shared goal of promoting the health and safety of children and families.
• U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 78
  For the past six years, these dedicated volunteers have promoted the health and safety of recreational boaters by providing the 8-hour monthly boating safety courses and educating children about water and boating safety.
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Laurie Cornelius
Laurie Cornelius was chosen for her leadership in promoting community-wide initiatives that improve the health of children and families. As the Director of Services for Children and Families at Clark College, Laurie oversees the Oliva Family Early Learning Center, the largest training ground for child-care providers in Southwest Washington. Laurie helped to shape the center’s outdoor learning space, which has been recognized nationally as a model. She also secured funding to address childhood obesity through a program that focuses on nutrition and movement. Outside her job, Laurie has raised funds for the Child Abuse Assessment Team at Legacy Salmon Creek Medical Center, was one of the founders of SELF (Support for Early Learning and Families), and has served on the Board of Directors of Education for Children and Families (EOCF). Laurie has gone above and beyond, bringing new programs and grant funding into Clark County to serve some of our most underserved populations.

HONORABLE MENTION

- David Bilby
  Fostering community partnerships among faith communities, schools, residents, and social service agencies to provide support for vulnerable populations
- Michelle Ahmed
  Encouraging women to get mammograms for their own health and well-being
- Sandy Mathewson
  Leading efforts to work collectively on policy, systems, and community-based prevention efforts
- Clark County Farms
  Helping to ensure a safe, local food system while contributing to community health, quality of life, and economic health
- Southwest Washington Health Care-Associated Infections Taskforce
  Decreasing the incidence of health care-associated infections and improving health care outcomes for patients
- WSU Extension, Food Safety and Nutrition Program
  Providing fun and effective nutrition education to low-income children and families in Clark County
Dr. Sally Williams (Individual)
Dr. Sally Williams was chosen for her tireless commitment to improving access to health care for low-income residents. She runs the antibiotic stewardship program at PeaceHealth Southwest and Legacy Salmon Creek hospitals. This program has helped to reduce infection rates at both hospitals to among the lowest in the country. Her work has slowed the development of antibiotic resistant bacteria and is integral to controlling life-threatening, antibiotic induced bacteria. She serves on the boards for PeaceHealth Southwest and the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, where she also volunteers her time as a physician. Dr. Williams has been key in the development of Project Access in this community—an initiative that coordinates a network of volunteer physicians and other health care providers, making it easier for physicians to donate medically necessary care to the low-income uninsured in our communities. She partners with other individuals, groups, and organizations in this community by using her influence and example to get others involved. Her leadership bridges local caregivers both locally and regionally.

Vancouver Public Schools Family-Community Resource Centers (Organization)
Vancouver Public Schools was awarded for establishing Family-Community Resource Centers at public schools. The schools serve as hubs for community partners to offer a range of support and opportunities for youth, families, and communities. Partners promote learning readiness, consistent school attendance, and student engagement with school, family, and community. Their work supports academic success and physical, social, and emotional health.

HONORABLE MENTION
- Vancouver-Clark Parks and Recreation
  Nominated for quality programming that benefits the community and improves the quality of life for residents of all ages and abilities
- Dr. Peter Lubisich IV
  Nominated for promoting health, contributing to disease prevention, and improving access to health care among under-served populations
- Faith-Based Coffee
  Nominated for working to create healthy, safe neighborhoods where families are supported and learning is encouraged at an early age
- The Free Clinic of Southwest Washington
  Nominated for establishing community-wide partnerships with individuals, groups, and organizations to provide access to health care among under-served populations
- Skyline Community Health Advocate Program
  Nominated for promoting health and fitness within the Skyline Crest community
- Snap Fitness of Battle Ground
  Nominated for promoting health and contributing to disease prevention
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2012

Eric Giacchino (Individual)
With a vision of creating safe bicycling environments for children, Eric Giacchino is helping to make exercise fun for kids, while addressing the growing problem of childhood obesity. In 2011, he approached his children’s school, Hough Elementary, with his vision and ideas. He soon found opportunities to collaborate with school leadership and volunteers and assumed leadership of a recently formed bicycle and pedestrian safety program, a partnership with the Vancouver and Evergreen School Districts. On behalf of the Vancouver School District, Eric obtained a $25,000 Safe Routes to School grant, enabling the district to purchase new Trek bicycles, a bicycle trailer, and to train physical education teachers and volunteers to teach students about bicycle and pedestrian safety. Last year, 350 kids went through the bicycle and pedestrian safety class in Clark County; this year it will double to 700 students. Over the past few years, the bicycle and pedestrian safety classes were available only at McLoughlin and Wy’East schools. The goal is to add one school each year to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety program. Hough Elementary is the first school to sign on for 2012.

Additionally, Eric has recruited volunteers for bicycle parking for the “Six to Sunset” concert series in downtown Vancouver. He has organized volunteers for the Annual Tandem Bicycle Ride event for students at the Washington School for the Blind, and partners with local cycle teams so that more tandem bicycles can be provided for the event. Eric is also the president of the newly-formed Bike Clark County, a non-profit whose mission is to improve cycling conditions countywide. By promoting bicycling in Clark County and increasing opportunities for children and adults to safely bike and walk, Eric is also promoting good health for county residents.

HONORABLE MENTION
- Dr. Kimberly Copeland:
  Nominated for her leadership of the Child Abuse Assessment Team, which coordinates the care effort between medical evaluation, legal and law enforcement, social services, and child advocates for children who have been abused or neglect
- Chris Luque:
  Nominated for educating and influencing students about the effects of drugs and alcohol on driving, and for his involvement with the Target Zero program, whose mission is to lower the number of fatal collisions to zero by 2030
- Joe Walsh:
  Nominated for his leadership of the Safe Communities Task Force, which addresses youth violence prevention and involves comprehensive, multi-disciplinary efforts
Dr. Susan Zamberlan (Individual)  
Dr. Susan Zamberlan volunteers as an ophthalmologist at Project Homeless Connect in Vancouver, Washington. She displays tremendous commitment to helping those in our community who are the most vulnerable and most in need. She has partnered with DSHS to provide custom eyeglasses to Project Homeless Connect clients. When these funds were not available, Dr. Zamberlan has provided for custom eyeglasses out of her own pocket. Dr. Zamberlan’s table in the Health and Wellness section was one of the most accessed and needed resources at the recent Project Homeless Connect event, where she served persons experiencing homelessness by providing free and full eye exams. After the event concluded, Dr. Zamberlan remained to help clients find appropriate eyeglasses among those donated from the Lion’s Club. Dr. Zamberlan goes above and beyond in personally committing herself to the health and well-being of those experiencing homelessness in Clark County.

ESD 112 School Nurse Corps (Organization)  
ESD 112’s School Nurse Corps (SNC) provides nursing services in 23 small school districts in southwest Washington. The SNC nurses work closely with teachers, parents, doctors and children to help manage chronic diseases for students who are identified with a potentially life threatening and/or chronic health condition. They teach students healthy life practices such as proper hand washing, coughing techniques, as well as providing other health education classes. The SNC nurses meet with families to connect them to local and state resources. Often times, the simple act of connecting a family with resources they were unaware of can make significant improvements in keeping their family healthy. The nurses volunteer their time to community health fairs, offering free blood pressure checks and glucose screening; organizing family fitness events; and providing health resources. The SNC provides leadership in health and safety in our schools and community at large, working to improve access to health care to our most vulnerable citizens.

HONORABLE MENTION  
- Scott and Kelly Driscoll: Nominated for their dedication to the youth of our community through the Quinn Driscoll Foundation, which they founded in the name of their son who died from an undiagnosed heart condition in 2009. The organization works to provide education about the risks, symptoms and proactive detection of heart defects and diseases; coordinate and manage cardiac screening events for youth; and provide organizations with automated external defibrillators (AEDS).
- Vancouver Downtown Association: Nominated for collaborative work to develop the No Ifs Ands or Butts “Can It!” campaign to improve the livability of our environment by eliminating a form of litter that does not decompose and ultimately ends up in our rivers, streams, and drinking water supply.
- Clark County Child Passenger Safety Program: Nominated for protecting the health and safety of Clark County infants and children through a collaborative partnership to provide car seats for qualifying families.
- Lorrie Massie – All About Nutrition: Nominated for promoting health and contributing to disease prevention by educating others about healthy lifestyle option through weight management, target nutrition, and exercise.
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Barbe West (Individual)
Barbe West has been involved in the delivery of health care for most of her professional life. She served as president of Kaiser Permanente’s northwest region from 1997 to 2001. From 2002 to 2009, she served as Executive Director of Community Choices where she led the Steps to a Healthier Community grant, building working partnerships with over 50 organizations and 400 volunteers to advocate for healthier living through effective upstream strategic planning and resource development. In 2009 she was hired to lead the Free Clinic of Southwest Washington, which serves low-income patients without health insurance. She also serves on the Washington State Free Clinic Association Board, where she works to assist with the development of new free clinics. She is a tremendous resource and guidance for a variety of local educational programs, is a mentor for Clark College Health Careers program, and serves on the Concordia College Advisory Council for their Health and Human Services program. She consults with area school districts regarding healthier foods and appropriate curriculum changes to get students more active during the school day. Her boundless energy and enthusiasm for improving the health of people in our community by working to address the root causes of poor health has had a positive and real impact in Clark County.

Community Services Northwest’s Wellness Project (Organization)
As the only free mental health clinic in the Pacific Northwest, Community Services Northwest’s Wellness Project makes a significant contribution to our community. The program serves some of the most fragile and vulnerable individuals in Clark County – the low-income, uninsured or underinsured adults who need mental health treatment and related services. They may be homeless or at risk for homelessness. They may suffer from both mental health and chemical dependency problems, and they may be in crisis. The majority lack insurance to cover mental health and medical services. The Wellness Project served nearly 200 unduplicated clients in 2009. The individuals served have no other resources in the community, and they present a significant portion of diagnostic ranges that include paranoia, schizophrenia, bipolar disorders, chronic anxiety, post traumatic stress disorder and chronic depression. The program has developed innovative partnerships with a number of major regional universities; graduate volunteers come from many academic venues. In addition to the university volunteers, the Wellness Project maintains extensive ongoing partnerships with a number of county service providers and community organizations to connect clients with the resources they need.

HONORABLE MENTION

- **Columbia River Mental Health Services’ Nursing Staff**: Nominated for serving Clark County’s poorest and most vulnerable citizens with warmth and dignity, providing that which is most needed, from school-based services for children to home visits, residential care, outpatient services and inpatient treatment at Hotel Hope for those in acute psychiatric crisis. Staff has led immunization and smoking cessation campaigns.
- **Sheela Choppala Nestor**: Nominated for commitment to the health equity initiative in Clark County, resulting in a new lens with which to view health indicators found in the 2009 Community Report Card; skillfully connecting data to the compelling story of inequities that exist in our community and how they are compromising the health of our residents.
- **Marilyn Johnson**: Nominated for the health ministry program she initiated as a parish nurse at a local Clark County parish. She developed this nursing parish program into a model program within the Northwest Parish Nurse Ministries. Marilyn volunteers her time as the Regional Parish Nurse Coordinator in Clark County and serves as a volunteer mentor and educator to all Clark County parish nurses.
- **Steve Rocereto, Rebound Orthopedics and Neurosurgery**: Nominated as a certified athletic trainer in Clark County since 1999 who serves as a trustworthy medical resource for local area high schools, developing and implementing an injury prevention program for Clark County youth soccer and baseball clubs and working to minimize youth athletic injury.
- **Rachel Seidel, Children’s Medicaid Outreach Coordinator, DSHS**: Nominated for maintaining community partnerships with community agencies, providing personable and culturally competent service delivery; and leading in community health access resources.
Remy Eussen

When Dr. Remy Eussen arrived in Clark County ten years ago, access to dental care for young children covered by Medicaid was virtually non-existent. Dr. Eussen immediately began providing dental treatment to this underserved population, and currently 80 percent of his patients are children covered by Medicaid. He has been a leader in gaining community support for the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program and has trained more than 60 dentists in techniques necessary for working with young children in the treatment and prevention of dental diseases. In addition to Clark County, he has helped organize the ABCD program in Cowlitz, Klickitat and Skamania counties. He is a regular volunteer at the Children’s Dental Health Day and makes himself available at Head Start locations to provide dental exams. He is currently serving as an advisor in the development of an ABCD look-alike program for people 55 years and older who are covered by Medicaid. Dr. Eussen has been instrumental in creating a partnership between public health and community providers to provide access to oral health care to a marginalized population. His work has gone a long way to narrow the gap in dental health equity in our community.

HONORABLE MENTION

- **Clark College Healthy Penguin Nation**: Campus-wide program promoting good health through comprehensive strategies addressing the multiple dimensions of wellness. Some examples include tracking healthy activity choices using Penguin Points and healthy food choice identification by the Healthy Penguin logo.
- **Clark Public Utilities Water Services**: Communitywide stewardship programs that protect water quality and provide watershed restoration. Some examples are restoring streams, enhancing fish populations and educating the community about habitat and watershed stewardship.
- **Dr. Desiree Hellegers**: Dr. Hellegers was instrumental in developing the Center for Social and Environmental Justice at WSU-Vancouver, and has partnered with community organizations and local universities to expand the social and environmental justice conversation locally, nationally and globally.
- **AWARE, Inc**: Youth educators working to promote health and prevent disease by providing information to middle school and high school students about developing character, healthy relationships, and goal-setting to make informed decisions for a healthy lifestyle.
- **Teresa Norman**: Ms. Norman was instrumental in developing the North Star opiate substitution clinic to treat those impacted by addiction and complex health issues. Her work has helped to narrow health disparities and improve access to care for vulnerable populations.
- **Nutter Corporation**: A comprehensive corporate campaign that prioritizes employee health and fitness for employees, their families, and the wider community.
- **Rebound Orthopedics & Neurosurgery Group**: Medical care providers working to expand access and delivery of health care for the community.
- **Rosemere Neighborhood Association**: Community organization advocating for health promotion, disease prevention, and social justice through water quality advocacy and monitoring and improving neighborhood livability.
- **Community Choices' Walking: All Seasons All Reasons campaign**: Communitywide health promotion and disease prevention multi-media campaign providing resources for families, community groups, and employers to create walking programs using online tools, maps, and downloadable print materials.