

## **SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH PARTNERSHIP**

### **Heart Healthy Waukesha County receives award from Wisconsin Public Health Association**

The Wisconsin Public Health Association (WPHA) has recognized Heart Healthy Waukesha County for “Special Achievement of a Public Health Partnership.” The award was presented during the association’s 2005 conference in May.

WPHA created the partnership award in 2002 to recognize special contributions to public health by a partnership of two or more groups working together to achieve a common public health goal that is aligned with the state’s health plan: “Healthiest Wisconsin 2010.” WPHA annually presents awards in nine categories as a means of recognizing people and organizations that have made significant contributions to public health in Wisconsin.

Heart Healthy Waukesha County received the award for demonstrating the power of collaboration in influencing healthy behavior change. Heart Healthy Waukesha County (HHWC) is an alliance of healthcare providers, educational institutions, businesses, government, and community based organizations with a shared mission to improve cardiovascular health of Waukesha County. To date the project has received financial, in-kind and volunteer support from 27 organizations:

AARP Wisconsin	Linden Grove
Addiction Resource Council	UW-Extension Nutrition Coalition
Advanced Healthcare	Pfizer Pharmaceuticals
American Cancer Society	ProHealth Care
American Heart Association	United Way in Waukesha County
American Lung Association	The W. Edwards Deming Institute
American Society for Quality	Waukesha County Chamber of Commerce
Aurora Health Care	Waukesha County Executive’s Office
Center for Tobacco Research and Intervention	Waukesha County Economic Development Corp.
Community Memorial Hospital of Menomonee Falls	Waukesha County Department of Senior Services
Covenant Healthcare System, Inc.	Waukesha County Division of Public Health
Covenant Quad – West Allis	Waukesha County Technical College
GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals	Wisconsin State Department of Health and Family Services Prevention Block Grant Program
Laureate Group	

The project has brought widespread attention to cardiovascular disease as the number one health problem in Waukesha County and mobilized forces to do something about it. The partnership put an infrastructure and a committee structure in place to address three of Wisconsin’s eleven health priorities: adequate and appropriate nutrition; overweight, obesity and lack of physical activity; and tobacco use and exposure.

In 2004, Heart Healthy Waukesha County completed a collaborative action project that assisted nine cross-organizational teams in initiating health improvement interventions that touched more than 7000 people in Waukesha County during their first year. Each team worked in a specific area of focus: worksite fitness, school site fitness, community environment for fitness, worksite nutrition, school site nutrition,

Hispanic nutrition education, worksite tobacco use and exposure, and school site tobacco use and exposure. Additional details appear in HHWC's "Report to Supporters," available at [www.healthywaukesha.com](http://www.healthywaukesha.com).

Heart Healthy Waukesha County continues to explore innovative ways to foster systemic improvements in cardiovascular health and to expand the scope of wellness activities within the county. Recent work includes efforts to heighten the awareness among business leaders of the positive economic impact of healthy lifestyles.

Launched in 2003 by the Waukesha County Health Council in partnership with the Center for Quality and Innovation of Waukesha County Technical College (WCTC), Heart Healthy Waukesha County is organized under the leadership of co-chairs Robert (Bob) Speer of Covenant Healthcare and Herb Rosenberger of ProHealth Care. Project work is carried out by three standing committees: Collaborative Planning Committee – co-chairs: Patricia Kashmerick, Community Memorial Hospital and March Jacques, HHWC Project Director; Events Committee – co-chairs: Lynda Crucius, WCTC, and Martha Stanley, Aurora Health Care; Finance Committee – co-chairs: Robert Stedman, WCTC, and Mark Huber, Aurora Health Care.

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