



**Riverside County  
Public Health**

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## **Five Riverside County residents honored for work to improve health**

Five individuals who have contributed to improving the health and well-being of Riverside County residents are being recognized for their efforts and receiving the Third Annual Public Health Community Champion Award.

The five will be honored April 7 during the Board of Supervisors meeting in Riverside.

“These individuals have gone beyond what would normally be expected of them,” said Susan Harrington, director of the Riverside County Department of Public Health, which hands out the award. “For some it is a personal tragedy or hardship that motivates them, while for others it is the dedication and commitment to help others. We are honored to give them such much-deserved recognition.”

The five recipients represent the five supervisorial districts and were selected because of the dedication and accomplishment in improving the health status of Riverside county residents; to recognize the collaboration with DOPH and/or other organizations focused on public and population health; and because of the sensitivity to the needs of special populations and reducing health disparities in care and outcomes.

The recipients are:  
(District 1)

**Robert Roy:** For his work to place Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in schools and other public buildings. It was a campaign started following the tragic death of Mr. Roy's 14-year-old son, Travis. Through the Travis R. Roy Sudden Cardiac Arrest Fund, Mr. Roy has brought the life-saving device to schools in Temecula, Murrieta, San Jacinto and San Diego County. Mr. Roy is also a District 1 representative on the Emergency Medical Care Committee.

(District 2)

**Gabriel Maldonado:** Mr. Maldonado is one of the driving forces behind TruEvolution, which collaborates with the Department of Public Health HIV and STD programs to link HIV-positive youth to HIV treatment. TruEvolution held three LEAPOUT events in Riverside that covered the topics of HIV/AIDS among people of color, combating LGBT violence and discrimination and human trafficking.

(District 3)

**Dr. Richard Goldberg:** Dr. Goldberg has been instrumental in working with the Department of Public Health in establishing a cadre of Medical Volunteers in the Idyllwild area. He has also been the point person to coordinate trainings and exercises with the Medical Volunteers to ensure that they are ready to respond as part of the coordinated public health and medical response system. Dr. Goldberg has spearheaded the annual flu clinics since 2006. As a result of his efforts, the community of Idyllwild is better prepared to respond to any public health emergency – which ultimately translates to reducing illness and/or saving lives.

(District 4)

**Aurora Wilson:** She works to enhance the health and well-being of the Coachella Valley by linking health with community planning and active transportation. Aurora also works on initiatives to address the homeless population and encourages our partnership to provide Public Health Nursing Services at Roy's Desert Resource Center.

(District 5)

**Melanie Nieman:** She works for the Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD). For the past two years, the department's Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention and WIC Programs have partnered with EMWD on the Rethink Your Drink Initiative. EMWD encourages school-age children to learn more about the benefits of drinking tap water, healthy eating and physical activity.