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## **County Health officials to honor community partners as part of Public Health Week**

Five individuals and organizations who have contributed to improving the health and well-being of Riverside County residents are being recognized for their efforts and receiving the 4th Annual Public Health Community Champion Award.

The five will be honored April 5 during the Board of Supervisors meeting in Riverside as part of National Public Health Week.

“These individuals and organizations have stepped up and gone beyond what would normally be expected of them,” said Sarah Mack, interim director of Riverside University Healthcare System – Public Health, which hands out the award. “They have seen the importance of giving back to the community and their efforts have benefitted many residents. We are honored to give them this much-deserved recognition.”

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

In addition to the awards presentation, Dr. Cameron Kaiser, Riverside County public health officer, will give a “State of the County’s Health” address. There will also be a Health Expo between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. at the County Administrative Center, 4080 Lemon St. in Riverside. More than 40 vendors are expected to participate and there will be health screenings for blood pressure, glucose and dental.

The Community Champions for 2016 are:

District One

**Pamela Garlich, Garlich Family Child Care**

Garlich Family Child Care is being recognized for its tremendous work becoming certified under the Nutrition and Physical Activity Self-Assessment for Child Care tool, or NAPSACC. The Garlich Family Child Care met the 55 nutrition and physical activity requirements to become NAP SACC certified in June 2013, and has continued to embrace the Healthy Eating and Active Play guidelines for the program since then. The care center organized the meet-and-greets for other owners to encourage them to participate in NAP SACC and allowed the 5-hour training taught by UC Riverside Extension to be held at its facility.

District Two

**Laura Roughton**

Laura Roughton was the very first and current mayor of Jurupa Valley. She has been a community volunteer with the Jurupa Unified School District, Girl Scouts of San Geronimo Council and the American Red Cross. She is a member of the Santa Ana River Trail Advisory Group and is a leader of the Healthy Jurupa Valley initiative. Laura has been an integral part of the Riverside County Health Coalition and on the WRCOG Health Committee. She is tireless in her efforts to bring Healthy Communities to Jurupa Valley and to Riverside County as a whole, serving numerous times as a panelist or panel moderator at conferences and workshops focusing on building healthy communities.

District Three

**Dr. Chawki Harfouch**

Dr. Chawki Harfouch is an advocate for his patients and for public health. He was recently awarded the Patient's Choice Award. Dr. Harfouch applies his infectious disease expertise to difficult cases such as complicated tuberculosis patients and individuals with meningococcal infections. He collaborates with Public Health to ensure appropriate actions are taken to protect the community, while meeting the health care needs of the individual patient. Dr. Harfouch is affiliated with multiple hospitals in Riverside County and has been in practice for 13

years. He received his medical degree from St. Joseph's University Medical School. He is an internist, specializing in infectious disease.

District Four

### **Regional Access Project**

Thanks to the relationships RAP has built with eight local agencies, water stations have been installed at several local schools, Boys & Girls Clubs and a residential apartment complex. RAP's relationship with HealthCorps helped get the message of healthier lifestyles out to high school students and staff; one student from the HealthCorps academy even decided to enter public health nutrition because of her work with the Re-Think Your Drink program. The efforts of RAP in the community have given thousands of residents improved access to safe drinking water as a healthier option and spread the word about personal health empowerment.

District Five

### **Living Way Christian Church**

Throughout the year, Living Way Christian Fellowship Church serves the community by offering a variety of community events to members and residents of Moreno Valley. Activities include monthly health forums, like those that focus on cancer prevention. It has provided home-maintenance services to seniors on the weekends, as well as clothing giveaways. During the holidays, the church offers Thanksgiving meals to the community and sponsors a Turkey Giveaway. For Easter, Living Way Church hosted an Easter Egg Hunt at a local park for the community; and supported students and youth by providing college prep programs for high school students along with tutoring resources. In 2015, Living Way partnered with Public Health's Black Infant Health (BIH) Program by providing space where BIH prenatal group sessions could be held. In 2016, Living Way Christian Fellowship continues to support the BIH program.