



County of Yolo

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

Date: April 1, 2008
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Yolo County Public Health Heroes Recognized

Woodland, CA – On April 1, 2008, the Yolo County Board of Supervisors recognized the Public Health Heroes for 2008. Each year, the Yolo County Health Department presents these awards during Public Health Week to community members and staff who have exemplified the values of public health.

This year's awards were presented to Dana Henderson, and Joan Brisbin, both employees of the Yolo County Health Department; Linda Johnson, a nurse practitioner with Woodland Healthcare; and Raymond Groom, Director of Yolo County General Services.

Dana Henderson was recognized not only for the excellence of her work, but for her commitment, energy, and willingness to volunteer for a wide range of public health and charitable outreach activities. She coordinates mass prophylaxis and medical assets for the emergency preparedness team of the Yolo County Health Department and has been recognized by the state and the Centers for Disease Control for her model work. She also fundraises for the United Way and various breast cancer and HIV/AIDS charities.

Joan Brisbin is a public health nurse who exemplifies public health values. She was awarded for her commitment to our community. She makes home visits and provides medical case management to high risk families. She is the case manager for the Yolo County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program and works in emergency preparedness. She is also currently involved with the Sacramento Regional Medical Reserve Corps.

Linda Johnson received the award for her work as an advocate for breastfeeding women, both at the community level and through her work at WHC. Her initiative and dedication was instrumental in obtaining the money donated by WHC for the Breastfeeding Walk last August and in WHC's move towards becoming a Baby Friendly Hospital.

Raymond Groom is a Public Health Hero for taking Yolo County a giant step forward in endorsing green concepts with the completion of the Yolo County Health and Mental Health's Green Award winning Bauer Building. Ray's priorities involve energy, climate, and carbon footprint objectives; from environmental consideration in purchasing and encouraging increased use of preferable products and services, to development and implementation of green building practices. A great achievement for Ray this year is the receipt of the "Climate Action Leader" status as well as an award from the EPA for the Solar Green Power Project.

These awards were given out as an early kick-off for the commemoration of National Public Health Week 2008. This year's theme – Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance – seeks to educate the public and policy makers about the connection between climate change and health, and provide communities across the country with the facts and tools to empower them to help ensure a healthy future for both people and the planet.

Next week, the Yolo County Health Department will host a variety of activities aimed at educating people on how to contribute to a healthier climate. On Thursday, April 10th, the Yolo County Health Department will be sponsoring a “Green Fair” which includes a FREE farmer's market to encourage buying locally grown produce. Other partner agencies will also be participating in the fair, including Project Compost and the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis.

Photos available upon request.

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