



CLAY COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Community Health in Action Awards Presented to Local Organizations

LIBERTY, Mo. – December 2, 2019 – Clay County Public Health Center recently awarded four local organizations with Community Health in Action (CHIA) awards for their positive contributions to the overall health of Clay County. Established in 2015, the CHIA awards celebrate individuals, groups and organizations that help improve the health of county residents through programs, services, policies, leadership or volunteerism.

“In such a rapidly growing county, the health center relies on local partners to help fulfill its vision of empowering all people to lead healthier lives,” said Director Gary E. Zaborac of Clay County Public Health Center. “We hope this award brings attention to the great organizations in our area that make it a healthier place to live, work and play.”

Two Clay County cities were recognized for their passing of Tobacco 21, an initiative that changes local law to prohibit sales of nicotine products to anyone under the age of 21. The Smithville Board of Aldermen was recognized at their meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 5 for passing the ordinance in May. The Kearney mayor and Board of Aldermen were recognized on Monday, Nov. 18 for their passing of Tobacco 21 in October.

The North Kansas City YMCA also received a CHIA award for their efforts to address food insecurity in the area. Partnering with Harvesters and Humana, they established a permanent food pantry in the entrance of their facility that offers fresh and healthy options. Since the pantry launched in April, the YMCA has been able to distribute over 30,000 pounds of food to over 12,000 individuals and families.

Another award was presented to the Excelsior Springs Parks and Recreation Board for promoting the passage of a city ordinance that would restrict smoking and the use of vaping devices in parks where youth activities are taking place. By partnering with the Excelsior Springs SAFE Committee, signs alerting visitors to the ordinance were posted in all affected areas.

About Clay County Public Health Center

Created in 1953, the Clay County Public Health Center is a nationally accredited local public health department protecting the health of all people in the county by implementing population-based prevention programs and services. This community approach to wellness not only prevents the spread of disease but also provides wellness education to empower people to make healthy choices. To learn more, visit clayhealth.com.

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The mission of the Clay County Public Health Center is to deliver the essential public health services of prevention, promotion and protection to the communities of Clay County.