



# Northwest Regional Hometown Health Newsletter

## *Northwest Region Local Health Unit of the Year*



## *Marion County*

From left to right-  
Don Murray,  
Valerie Shipman,  
Traci Holmes,  
Heather Andersen

## *Northwest Region Employee of the Year*

## *Nancy Marsh*

From left to right –  
Don Murray  
Nancy Marsh



*Northwest Region Local Health Unit of the Year Nominees*

*Johnson County*



From left to right: Shirley Hatchett, Judy Bradley, Jackie Blackmon, Don Murray

*Sebastian County*



From left to right: Angela Ross, Karen White, Jo Wester, Don Murray

*Madison County*



From Left to Right: Shana Villines, Don Murray

*Logan County*



From Left to Right: Amanda Tanner, Stacy Ryan , Paula Beaty, Julie Casalman, Kari Magby, Don Murray



## *Arkansas WIC Receives USDA Award for*

The Arkansas Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program is the recipient of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children's Loving Support Gold Award of Excellence.

This award recognizes agencies that are in varying stages of demonstrating exemplary breastfeeding promotion and support practices. The intent of the award is to provide models and motivate other local agencies and clinics to strengthen their breastfeeding promotion and support activities, and ultimately increase breastfeeding initiation and duration rates among WIC participants.

"This Loving Support Gold Award of Excellence is an indication that we are on the right track as we continue to move forward in removing barriers to increasing breastfeeding rates in Arkansas," Sandra Jones, WIC State Breastfeeding Coordinator at the Arkansas Department of Health, said.

## *People making a Difference!*

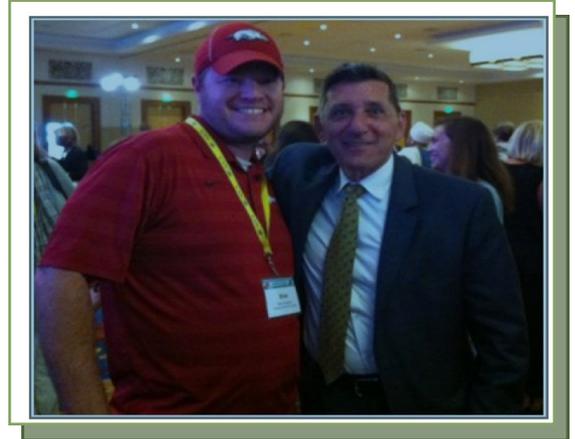
Several members of the NWA Tobacco and Drug Free Coalition were recognized at the state level for their works and efforts in the field of prevention. The Arkansas Prevention Network (APNet) bestowed Kathleen Holloway the Carpenter Community Award, "People making a Difference" in prevention award. Kathleen is certainly a deserving awardee having worked in community health prevention in Hometown Health.



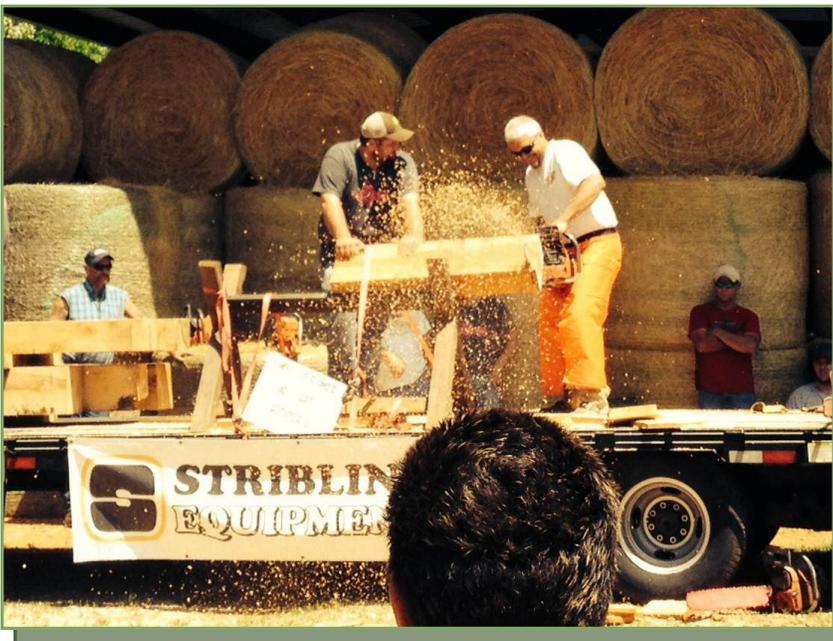
## *Van Buren T.E.A. Coalition Recognized Nationally for reducing Prescription Drug Abuse*

At the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America (CADCA) Midyear 2015 Drug Free Communities (DFC) Grantee Town Hall meeting in Indianapolis, IN, Office of National Drug Control Policy director Michael Botticelli mentioned Brian Henderson, the chair of the Van Buren County T.E.A. Coalition, for his involvement in distributing individual prescription drug medication boxes to members of his community as an example for other DFC grantees to follow.

The T.E.A. Coalition also works with youth groups in all three school district in Van Buren County to raise awareness of dangers and consequences of alcohol, tobacco and other drug use among youth. These youth serve as role models for their peers and promote a drug free lifestyle.



## *Sawing for the Cure!*



The Second Annual Sawing for the Cure event was held May 9, 2015. This event is held in conjunction with the Kingston Fair on the Square.

Sawing for the Cure was started by a group of loggers from Madison County who have been closely affected by breast cancer. They have a desire to help others in the community who have been diagnosed with this disease. In the past two years, \$17,284 has been raised and donated to the Madison County Health Coalition to be used in their Breast Health Navigation Program. Funding from Susan G. Komen provides a Breast Health Navigator, Donna Graham, RN. She assists breast cancer patients

with navigation through the health care system, emotional support, assistance with gasoline cards for travel to care and with lymphedema supplies. With Sawing for the Cure funds, breast cancer patients can be assisted with groceries, utilities, prescriptions and other needs that are encountered when a person is too sick to work.

## *Searcy County Summer Lunch Program Success*



Searcy County Summer Lunch Program served 1,454 meals to children and gave 1,454 bags of supplemental food during the eight week program in 2015. The program had 81 volunteers at six different locations in Searcy County to provide the meals.

Boston Mountain Rural Health provided the supplemental food and their staff packed the bags for the children. The Community Garden Food Corp Service members harvested fresh vegetables for the supplemental food also. Other community partners that made the program possible included Ozark Health Medical Center, Day Springs Behavioral Health Service, North Central Arkansas Food Bank, No Kid Hungry, Northwest Arkansas Economic District.



Boston Mountain Rural Health staff filling supplemental food bags for the summer lunch program.



Community Garden Food Corp Service members with fresh vegetables from the school garden for the supplemental food bags.



The reason for their efforts...



August 2015

## *Boone County awarded Drug Free Communities Grant*



North Arkansas Partnership for Health Education (*NAPHE*) received a SAMSHA grant for the Boone County Drug Free Communities Project in the amount of \$125,000 per year for five years, renewable for up to 5 additional years. This will result in well over one million dollars to address substance abuse issues for youth during the next ten years. In addition, once under way, they will also be eligible to apply for mentoring dollars to help neighboring HHI Coalitions in other counties also apply for the same grant to help address substance abuse issues in their counties as well.

This project will be delivered in partnership with the Boone County Hometown Health Improvement Coalition's Substance Abuse Committee, a group of really hard working people who have been working with *NAPHE* for many years on youth substance abuse prevention. In fact, the youth prevention work of this committee through the years is the primary reason they were eligible to apply for the Drug Free Communities grant!

## *Madison Receives Grants Youth Leadership Development Prevention Service Program*



Madison County Health Coalition received two new grant projects for \$65,000 over three years. Youth Leadership Development and Prevention Service Program grants have two objectives: To reduce the prevalence of Underage Drinking and Prescription Drug Abuse in targeted Arkansas counties by leveraging prevention as a key priority. These are two new grants that are under the Partnership for Success Providers. Anna Chappell and Cassie Smith will both be working on these grants and partnering with youth members throughout Madison County

## *Growing a Healthy Searcy County Receives Wal-Mart Grant*



Pictured at the check presentation are (from left) Searcy County Treasure, Jim Arnold, Searcy County School Superintendent Alan Yarbrough, Searcy County Judge Jim Harness, Summer Food Program Volunteer Coordinator, Marie Morgan, OEM Coordinator Charmaine Seaton, ADH County Administrator Libby Seftar, DHS Administration Chris Holder, Walmart Director of Public Affairs Michael Lindsey and NWAEDD Assistance Executive Director Jeremy Ragland.

Growing a Healthy Searcy County Committee through a coordinated effort with the Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District received a \$30,752.00 grant to assist with their summer food program. The grant was through the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program and will provide supplemental food for children to take home, gas cards for volunteers, advertising to promote the program, and funding necessary to purchase commercial kitchen equipment at the Searcy County Civic Center.

## *Benton County celebrates World Breastfeeding Week*



In honor of World Breastfeeding Week, Nutritionist Judy Spencer and Home Economist Jan Siebert created this display for the clients at the Benton County Health Unit. The theme for this year's WBW was "Breastfeeding and Work: Let's Make it Work!". The display included information on how to get a breast pump from WIC, Rights & Regulations for breastfeeding moms. "Do Not Disturb" signs, and more.

## *The Center for Pacific Islander Health*



The Center for Pacific Islander Health started July 1 at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Northwest. The program is building off research under way at the school, said Pearl McElfish, director of medical school's research department and co-director of the center.

The center's scope includes health disparity research, disease prevention and management programs and training for health care providers and community health workers.

The newly opened center hopes to improve the health of the local Marshallese community, keep the changes going for generations with education and outreach and share what it learns to help Pacific Islander s everywhere.

## Ozark Safe Kid Event



Ozark Safe Kids Event was held August 22nd, 2015. The event was hosted by Arkansas Children's Hospital and UAMS. Education was provided on car seat safety, home safety, tobacco cessation, bicycle safety w/ bike helmet distribution, fire safety, first aid, water safety and life jacket distribution.

Make every kid a safe kid.



**SAFE KIDS DAY**  
**SAFE KIDS**  
ARKANSAS

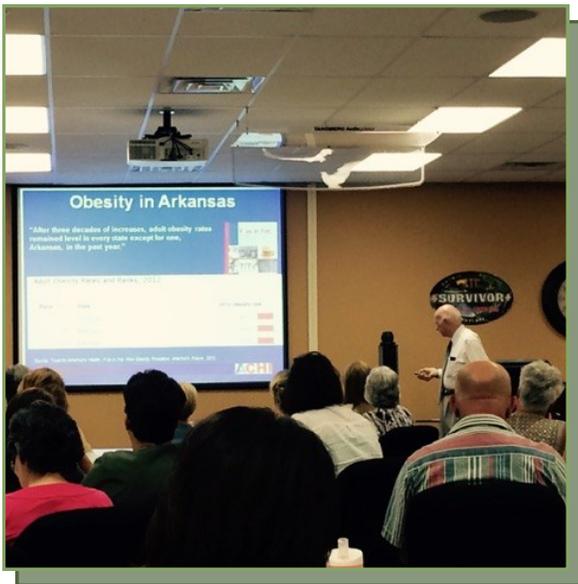
August 22, 2015  
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Franklin County Safe Kids Day at the  
Gardner Family Life Building  
104 South Main St.  
Ozark, AR 72949

The Safe Kids Coalition of Arkansas is hosting Safe Kids Day to promote injury prevention. Children who make the rounds will receive a free bicycle helmet and life jacket while supplies last. Help us make every kid a safe kid. For more information call 501-364-5677.



## *Back to School Nurse Workshops*



The four Northwest Region CHNS planned and implemented the annual Back To School Nurse Workshop. Four medical doctors were asked to educate school nurses. They were: Dr. Joseph Bates, "The State of Obesity in Arkansas"; Dr. David Grimes, "Preventing the Upcoming Diabetic Tsunami"; Dr. Gary Wheeler, "Pediatrics and Second Hand Smoke"; and Dr. Adam Maass, "Diabetics in Pediatrics". The workshop also incorporated a 30 minute tobacco presentation from the two NW CHPS Sarah Briscoe and Ashley LeFevre as well as an hour update for school nurses by Paula Smith, State School Nurse Consultant.





September 2015

## *Marion County Senior Health Fair*



Marion County Extension Services and the Marion County Fair Committee hosted a Senior Health Fair. The Seniors were invited to enjoy lunch at the Marion County Fair Expo building, health education and health screenings were provided by local health service providers. The Seniors also enjoyed Bingo for the afternoon.



## *Newton County Health Unit wins Blue Ribbon*

Newton County Health Unit provided Tobacco prevention and emerging product education at the Newton County Fair. The booth won a blue ribbon.

## *Suicide Awareness Event in Franklin County*



Franklin County Right Choices Coalition hosted a Suicide Awareness Event and Remembrance Walk, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2015 to observe National Suicide Prevention Week (September 6-12). The event was held to provide awareness about suicide and provide resources to those who may need them.

## *Lavaca Annual Wellness Fair*



Lavaca Wellness Center hosted its annual Wellness Fair September 21<sup>st</sup> at Lavaca Schools. Samantha Minster and Mary Eakin, Health Information Specialist with the Department of Health, presented ATV and Hunting Safety using an interactive spin game.

## *Farm to You in all Searcy County Schools*



Searcy County Family and Consumer Science Agent, Julie Blair, hosted the Farm to You event at each Elementary Searcy County Schools. Farm to you is an interactive educational experience designed to teach elementary school students about food and nutrition. Students tour 10 stations, starting with Farmer Dale's Farm, where they learn about products grown and raised in Arkansas. They also visit a simulated milk processing plant and a market and café where they learn about good nutrition. Then, they go through exhibits showing how what they eat impacts various body parts, including the mouth, stomach, small intestine, muscle, bone and

## *Baxter County Hometown Health Coalition Host Safety Baby Shower*



Baxter County Hometown Health Coalition hosted a Safety Baby Shower. The mothers-to-be were provide injury prevention education on period of purple crying, poisoning and medication safety, drowning, choking, motor vehicle safety and much more. The North Central Regional TRAC provide the mothers with car seats, home safety kits, tote bags, sleep sack, smoke alarms and more. The ADH Hometown Health team provided the education and the Baxter County Health Unit provide information on breastfeeding.

## *Van Buren County under the influence of THUGS*



The Van Buren County T.E.A. (Together Enhancing Awareness) Coalition is working hard to reduce the drug problem in Van Buren County. To that end, Brain Henderson (coalition chair), teams up with THUGS (**Teens Having United Goals**) to work with their peers at local schools and let them know there is a better way.

Brain aims to gather 30 teens from each high school to become THUGs. He goes to each school once a month to meet with them, and once a year in September, they hold a summit.

Each THUGs chapter works on ideas for an advertising campaign and the TEA Coalition funds the winning idea. The THUGs will be taking their message to Good Morning Arkansas on October 22nd and will be shooting a television commercial soon.

## *Madison County Drug Take Back Event*

Prescription Drug Abuse is a **SERIOUS** Problem that can go unnoticed. Monitor the use of medications, keep them secure, and dispose of them properly when no longer needed.

### Protect Your Family

Join the Arkansas Drug Take Back Initiative and our local Law Enforcement Officers to work against prescription drug abuse. Prescription Drop-Off boxes are located in the Madison County Jail at 201 Main and at the Madison County Sheriff's Office on Highway 412-Business in the Community Center.

**Drinks? Drugs? NAH!**  
Take Action Arkansas...Prevention Works!  
Division of Behavioral Health Services • Prevention Services

Go to: [www.artakeback.org](http://www.artakeback.org) for more information.

The Madison County Health Coalition assisted with the Arkansas Take Back Event on Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>. Our PSP grant sponsored an ad in the local paper featuring the Take Back information.

A Take Back booth was set up outside the Sheriff's Department on the 26<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 and manned by coalition staff and volunteers. All prescription medication collected were placed in the drop box at the Sheriff's Office after the event.

## *Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Annual Hunger Action Breakfast*

Hunger advocates gathered on Tuesday, September 22, for the annual Hunger Action Breakfast to help recognize Acting Out Against Hunger award winners for 2015. Each year during Hunger Action Month, they honor special people, businesses, non-profits and elected officials who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to reduce hunger in Arkansas.

### *Searcy County*



**Growing A Healthy Searcy County Committee** was nominated by the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas. The team has facilitated serving more than 200 children per week through a network of six Summer Meals sites, shown leadership in a monthly mobile food pantry program and been instrumental in adding an additional 10,000 lbs. of food to the county monthly.

### *Franklin County*



**Karolyn Taylor** was nominated by our No Kid Hungry campaign Out-of-School Team for her outstanding commitment and perseverance in making sure at-risk kids in Franklin County had safe Summer Meals programs to go to where they could get nutritious meals every day while school was out for the summer. Karolyn also organized a school supply give-away for kids in her summer programs.

## Marion Teen Summit



Marion County Hometown Health hosted a Teen Summit for all Marion County School Districts. Greg Bilby and Ronnie Trentham from Cherokee Nation were the main speakers with a interactive storytelling presentation on Tobacco prevention focused on smokeless tobacco. Students also moved through eleven teaching stations during the day, which provided education on hunting safety, distracted driving, nutrition, physical activity, dating violence, suicide prevention and much more.

