



# Mother & Child Health Coalition

## Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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### LOCAL Immunization Heroes Recognized

**KANSAS CITY, MO-** The Mid America Immunization Coalition will honor immunization heroes at their annual awards meeting on Wednesday, December 1, 2010 at the Plaza Library – Cohen Room, 4108 Main, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. The following will be recognized for their leadership in promoting immunizations:

**Hallmark** receives the *SENDING THE VERY BEST MESSAGE AWARD* for sustaining their immunization greeting card program, *For America's Babies*. Since 1995, state governors have been provided congratulatory cards to send to new parents reminding them about the importance of immunizations.

**Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City** and the **REACH Healthcare Foundation** receives the *PAY IT FORWARD AWARD* for ensuring that all females ages 9-26 within the service area had access to the HPV vaccine to prevent cervical cancer.

**Clay County Public Health Center** receives the *BEST PRACTICE AWARD* for implementing "Immunization Guidelines for Employees and Volunteers."

**Johnson County Health Department** receives the *BEST PRACTICE AWARD* for providing education to parents about the importance of vaccinating their children, and making them sign a waiver if they opt out.

**Judy Moore-Nichols**, KCMO Health Department, receives the *PARTNERSHIP AWARD* for recognizing the importance each organization plays in the success of the other.

**Mike Parsons**, Kansas Department of Health and Environment receives the *ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY AWARD* for National Infant Immunization Week activities.

**Bridget Gilbreath** receives the *GOING THE EXTRA MILE AWARD* for working to get children in Unified School District#500 immunized before the start of school.

*SILVER SYRINGE CHALLENGE AWARDS* go to **Lee's Summit Medical Center** for increasing overall influenza vaccinations among their health care workers by 117%, and to **Menorah Medical Center** for having 97% of their health care workers immunized against influenza in the 2009/10 flu season.

For more information about these immunization awards or to schedule an interview, please contact Deb Bumgardner at (816) 283-6242, ext. 244 or [dbumgardner@mchc.net](mailto:dbumgardner@mchc.net).

**Weather Policy:** If the KCMO schools are closed due to weather conditions, all MCHC meetings are automatically canceled for the day.

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Mother & Child Health Coalition promotes the health of mothers and children through community planning, education, advocacy and collaboration with organizations addressing infant mortality, immunization, childhood obesity, maternal health and child safety. Interviews are available upon request.