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HealthPlus Recognizes 2005 ‘Rainmakers’

Flint, MI — Ten mid-Michigan agencies were recognized by HealthPlus of Michigan for their efforts to improve community health during HealthPlus’ annual Rainmaker Awards program held June 30 at the Genesys Banquet & Conference Center. Michigan Surgeon General Dr. Kimberlydawn Wisdom served as the keynote speaker for the event.

Through the Rainmaker program, HealthPlus and its participating physicians recognize the diverse and collaborative efforts that help create a healthier community. Rainmaker award recipients receive grants for the development or maintenance of services and programs dedicated to improving the overall health status of our communities. This is the eleventh year that HealthPlus has presented the awards, which were accompanied by financial grants to the recipients totaling \$35,000. Organizations selected to receive 2005 Rainmaker Awards were:

Alzheimer’s Association “Family Caregiver Project.”

This project will teach caregivers how to safely perform activities of daily living to assist persons with dementia. Those targeted are individuals caring for family members suffering from mid- to late-stage dementia due to Alzheimer’s disease, Parkinson’s disease or Huntington’s disease. The program will offer workshops on topics such as communication, eating and dressing, grooming and bathing.

Boys & Girls Club of Saginaw County “Smoke Out” program.

“*Smoke Out*” is a comprehensive tobacco prevention program aimed at children ages six to 16. The objective is to prevent the onset of tobacco use. Curriculum

components focus on self-awareness, decision-making skills, resistance skills and communication and assertiveness training. The program also provides accurate factual information about tobacco use.

Created for Caring’s “Special Needs Program.”

The “*Special Needs Program*” provides housing and health emergency assistance to low-income citizens in the greater Bay County area. This year, the program will target several specific groups who are unable to get other help to pay for prescription drugs or prescription appliances.

Disability Services Resource Center “Loan Closet and Direct Services Program.” This is a program that loans medical equipment at no charge to people with disabilities in Bay County. The project currently provides over \$285,000 worth of durable medical equipment to those in need and the award will help to replace damaged and worn equipment.

The East Side Soup Kitchen “Soup Kitchen Meal Program.”

This is an ongoing drop-in meal program in Saginaw that serves hot meals at lunchtime Monday through Friday. In addition, the program prepares and delivers 400 after-school meals daily to nine community centers in Saginaw. Last year, the soup kitchen served over 120,000 meals to Saginaw residents and children.

Girl Scouts Fair Winds Council “Think Pink” project.

“*Think Pink*” is a breast cancer awareness program for girls in kindergarten through twelfth grade. The Council has developed a curriculum that is age appropriate for girls from six to 18 years of age. Since early detection increases survival rates, participants will learn the signs and symptoms of breast cancer and the skills to share that information with their mothers, aunts and other significant women in their lives.

National Council on Alcoholism and Addictions “Mr. Roger’s Summer Garden and Market Project.”

This project targets minority adolescent boys who are at high risk for gang involvement and other illegal activities during the summer months. The garden project uses vacant land, donations, volunteers and community grants to pay the boys for their work planting, nurturing, harvesting and selling their produce. It is designed to promote volunteerism, leadership, job readiness, team building and money management skills.

Transition House “Targeting At-Risk Populations to Stop Addictions.” This is an on-going project to address the needs of men and women in Genesee County who are unable to get other help for their addiction problems. Transition House is one of just nine rehab centers in Michigan that has a residential program for women and their children. The residential women’s program allows mothers and children to remain together while the mother is in treatment. Transition House hopes to become a leader in the State on treatment of this kind.

Valley Area Agency on Aging’s “Crisis Intervention Program.” This program will assist 40 seniors who have been discharged from the hospital with little or no family support and who need short-term custodial care services. The program will provide an average of 8 hours per week of custodial care services for an average of 3 months. The “*Crisis Intervention Program*” reduces hospital readmission, promotes successful recovery from short-term health crises and prevents further functional decline.

Visually Impaired Center “Managing Diabetes with Vision Loss.” This project will help 50 blind and visually impaired diabetic adults living in Genesee, Lapeer, Shiawassee and Saginaw counties. A team of health professionals will make home visits to teach the use of adaptive devices, techniques for glucose monitoring and insulin measurement and safe and healthy cooking techniques.

