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INFORMATION RELEASE

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Carroll #5 in State for Health, According to RWJ Foundation's *County Health Rankings*

Westminster, MD – (April 6, 2011) – On March 30, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute released the 2011 *County Health Rankings*. The Rankings provide nearly every county in America with easy-to-understand information on data related to health outcomes and factors that drive health in communities, such as high school graduation rates, tobacco use, diet and exercise, access to and quality of care, and poverty. With the *Rankings*, community leaders can see what is making their residents sick or unhealthy, and develop solutions to improve health.

According to this year's *Rankings*, Carroll County is among the top five of all 24 Maryland jurisdictions for health status. Some data points to improvement since the Rankings were first unveiled last year, such as a drop in the violent crime rate. However, little progress has been made in some other areas, such as adult obesity. To view the entire set of *County Health Rankings* for individual counties and states, including data for Carroll County, visit www.CountyHealthRankings.org.

Much of the data used to produce the Rankings is the same data that The Partnership has tracked since 2006 via our system called *Healthy Carroll Vital Signs*. Data is reported on the organization's web site, www.HealthyCarroll.org.

The Partnership is committed to using data from reliable sources, such as the data used in the *County Health Rankings*, to form strategic partnerships and spur our community to action so that more people can live longer, healthier lives.

The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc., an affiliate of Carroll Hospital Center and the Carroll County Health Department, is a private, nonprofit community-led organization that seeks to build capacity for better health and quality of life.

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