

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Health Improvement Week

National recognition event increases awareness of community health improvement

Westminster, MD – (May 25, 2011) – The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County is celebrating Community Health Improvement Week from June 5 to June 11, 2011. This first-ever national event intends to raise awareness about community health improvement activities, and recognize the people and organizations that lead them. Established by the Association for Community Health Improvement (ACHI), the Week is an opportunity to:

- *Increase understanding* of the vital role of community health improvement work, as complementary to but distinct from individual medical care,
- *Demonstrate the value and impact* of community health improvement initiatives at the local level,
- *Celebrate community health professionals* in all settings - including hospitals, community health centers, public health agencies, non-profit organizations, and community coalitions.

What is Community Health?

Community health is about the health of all of us, and the actions we can take to ensure that everyone in our community has the opportunity to live a healthy life. This includes access to health care services, health promotion, and health protection activities. Health promotion means health education and making the healthy choice the easy choice for everyone. Health protection

is ensuring that the places we live, work and learn are healthy and safe (homes that prevent unintentional injuries; tobacco-free environments for work, play and education; lifestyle choices that reduce risk and support wellness, etc.).

What does The Partnership do to support community health?

Here are just a few examples:

- In March, our *Access to Health Care Leadership Team* coordinated 6 insurance health enrollment events that counseled 134 people about health insurance options and helped those eligible enroll in public programs,
- The Partnership led and assisted the Carroll County Health Department in becoming a 100% tobacco-free campus in 2011 (with more sites in the works),
- Our efforts to help address childhood obesity now include *L.E.A.N. Carroll* and *Its Crunch Time!*. Working with the concerned leadership of Carroll County Public Schools, these programs aim to increase the amount of fruits and vegetables eaten by children at two schools in Mt. Airy. More child-serving locations are being considered.

Most importantly, The Partnership salutes the more than 115 local organizations and over 300 individuals that support our efforts to make Carroll County a healthier place. Without them, our work would not be possible.

Where can I learn more about community health improvement?

- Visit www.HealthyCarroll.org to find out more about The Partnership's local health improvement activities; visit www.CommunityHlth.org for information on national initiatives,
- Join all of us who make up The Partnership at our annual community forum, *We're On Our Way*, held each May. For details, contact us at ThePartnership@HealthyCarroll.org or 410-871-6373.

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 health and quality of life improvement.

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