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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Partnership Releases *Healthy Carroll Vital Signs II* Outstanding Community Partners Recognized

Westminster, Md. – (May 12, 2008) — At its annual "We're On Our Way" community health forum on Wednesday, May 7, The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc. unveiled the newest edition of health indicators for Carroll County. "Healthy Carroll Vital Signs II - Measures of Community Health" is a data set used to monitor local status in areas such as cancer, heart health, mental health, interpersonal violence, and substance abuse. While Carroll County compares well on some indicators of a healthy community, including physical activity and land preservation, other indicators show need for improvement, such as daily intake of fruits and vegetables, percent of teens using alcohol, diabetes, high blood pressure, and motor vehicle fatalities. Eleven health areas are tracked in all. This newest version of *Healthy Carroll Vital Signs* is expected to be available on The Partnership's website, <http://www.HealthyCarroll.org>, in June.

Also at the "We're On Our Way" forum, 2008 winners of Outstanding Community Partner Awards and the Janet W. Neslen Award were announced. The Dr. Janet W. Neslen Award recognizes an individual or organization that is outstanding in efforts to improve access to health care. Outstanding Community Partner Awards are given to two individuals and two organizations with exceptional performance in improving health and quality of life in Carroll County.

- Dr. Karl Green was honored with the Janet W. Neslen Award for increasing access to health care for children in Carroll County. He organized the Carroll County Children's Fund, a non-profit organization that helps to pay health care expenses for uninsured and underinsured children in Carroll County whose parents cannot afford care. Dr. Green served as the Fund's chairman from its inception in 1983 until 1990. Since his retirement, he continues to serve as a mentor, advisor and active member of the Fund's Board of Directors. Dr. Green, the first pediatrician to establish a practice in Carroll County, was raised in Manchester and served as Chief of the Department of Pediatrics at Carroll Hospital Center (then Carroll County General Hospital) from 1964 to 1978 and from 1981 to 1984.
- Stacy Gaegler of the Hampstead Police Department received the Outstanding Community Partner Award for exceptional performance in diverse efforts related to the safety, health and welfare of the citizens of Carroll County. Officer Gaegler, a Criminal Investigator

with the Department, also serves as the Department's Domestic Violence Coordinator, the C.R.A.S.H Coalition liaison, and the Safe Kids Coordinator. She facilitated domestic violence lethality assessments, performed child safety seat checks, monitored vendor compliance in regard to tobacco sales to minors, took the "Stranger Danger" program to Hampstead schools and day care facilities, and assisted with the "Chief's Challenge" program to promote seat belt usage, among many activities beyond her regular assignments as a Criminal Investigator.

- Andy Yount, guidance counselor at Sandymount Elementary School, was recognized with an Outstanding Community Partner Award for efforts above and beyond the call of duty in developing teamwork and building character, self-esteem, and confidence among children at the school. Mr. Yount produces award winning productions of Shakespearian plays and arranges many extracurricular events, devoting personal time on weekends and evenings to work with students.
- Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County, Inc. was given an Outstanding Community Partner Award for exceptional efforts to keep older residents in their homes safely and promote responsible home ownership, while developing community volunteerism. The organization helps to assure that local homes are safe and environmentally sound. Executive Director Marcia Weller accepted the award on behalf of the Habitat for Humanity Board and volunteers.
- Springfield Hospital Center received the Outstanding Community Partner Award for extraordinary understanding and proactive approach in providing a tobacco-free environment for patients, staff, volunteers and visitors. Springfield Hospital Center became a tobacco-free facility on January 7, 2008. The new policy was not required by any mandate, and is remarkable in the public mental health environment. As a result of the change, hospital staff, clients, and visitors are no longer exposed to health risks associated with exposure to tobacco, a known fire hazard has been eliminated, and coercion and violence associated with cigarette smoking has ended. Springfield Hospital Center's Award was accepted by Ann Grauel, R.N., Health Educator, Staff Development and Education.

Ken Meekins, Chief of Police, Town of Hampstead was honored with a special certificate of appreciation for his six years of service as a member of The Partnership's Executive Council. During his tenure, Chief Meekins helped to establish work groups and strategic plans in all eleven Community Health Improvement Areas and advanced projects in highway safety and tobacco-free living.

Special certificates were also presented to Carroll County Delegates Tanya Thornton Shewell and Susan W. Krebs for voting in favor of the Maryland Clean Indoor Air Act of 2007. The Act, which became effective on February 1, 2008, extended the ban on indoor smoking in the workplace to bars and restaurants. This landmark health legislation protects restaurant customers and food service workers from the harmful effects of second-hand exposure to tobacco.

PHOTOS BELOW:



(Left to right): Dr. Karl Green, Board of Directors, Carroll County Children's Fund; Larry L. Leitch, Board of Directors, The Partnership and Health Officer, Carroll County Health Department.



(Left to right): Delegate Susan Krebs; Charles O. Fisher, Jr. – Chairman, Board of Directors, Carroll Hospital Center; Tricia Supik, Executive Director and CEO, The Partnership; Delegate Tanya Shewell.



(Left to right): Marcia Weller, Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County, Inc.; Rosemary Murphey, Vice Chair, Executive Council, The Partnership; Anne Grauel, Health Educator, Springfield Hospital Center.



(Left to right): Stacy Gaegler, Police Department, Town of Hampstead; Rosemary Murphey, Vice Chair, Executive Council, The Partnership; Andy Yount, Guidance Counselor, Sandymount Elementary School.

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 both health and quality of life improvement.

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