

## Canon award winner praised for securing grants

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By Alisha George, Times Staff Writer |

Barbara Rodgers is often busy writing grants, taking phone calls, sending e-mails and helping people - all while being a wife and mother of five.

"Even though she does a lot, she makes time for everyone, especially her family," her husband Mike Rodgers said.

Barbara Rodgers, the director of Health Planning and Community Improvement for the Carroll County Health Department, received the 2010 Sylvia Canon Humanitarian Award Wednesday.

The award was established in 2001 to acknowledge the many contributions Sylvia Canon made prior to retiring as executive director of Human Services Programs of Carroll County Inc. The award is given yearly to recognize an individual who is a current or retired employee from a human services organization who initiates or sustains outstanding quality human services in the county.

Rodgers is on the board of The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Seniors Keeping in Touch and Caring Carroll Inc. She was also the main person who applied for a \$100,000 grant which enabled the health department to open a Pediatric Dental Clinic and secured a three-year Retired Senior Volunteer Program grant for \$60,000 a year in September to cover costs associated with volunteering for those older than 55, such as liability insurance, transportation and training.

Her husband and five children often get involved in projects and organizations she is associated with, she said. Her husband is the president of Caring Carroll Inc., a nonprofit that was originally developed from a grant Rodgers helped to secure.

Kim Spangler, director of health education at the health department, said she nominated Rodgers for the award because she goes above and beyond her job, finding resources that are instrumental in making needed services come to life.

Rodgers said her boss often comments on her ability to find grant money, which she attributes to her determination.

"I don't take no for an answer," she said.

A grant writing course she took in college while getting her health education degree has been very beneficial to her 29-year career, she said. But she does say Sylvia Canon's work has inspired her.

Canon, who attended the award ceremony, said that all the winners have had a great support system behind them, much like Rodgers.

"I'm just overwhelmed by all the people who've gotten it; they're all remarkable and wonderful people," Canon said.

Debbie Zepp, president of the Community Service Council of Carroll County, said the work Barbara has done will have a positive lasting impact on the county.

"It's time for her to be recognized as an unsung hero," Zepp said.

The service council board received two nominations for the award this year and chose a winner based on who is innovative in their work and really cares about the community, Zepp said.

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