The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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We're On Our Way held on May 11

Community health forum focuses on *Vision of a Healthy Community*

Westminster, MD – (May 13, 2016) – On May 11 a program announcing the state of our County's health and local health progress, including highlights of community events and initiatives, was presented by The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc. during The Partnership's annual community forum, *We're On Our Way*. The forum, which was open to the community, was held at the Portico of St. John in Westminster.

A Certificate of Special Recognition signed by the U.S. Senator from Maryland Benjamin Cardin for "commitment to Improving the Health and Lives of Residents of Carroll County Through Innovative Community Partnerships" was presented to Board Chairperson Abby Gruber.

Carroll County's improvement this year in the 2016 County Health Rankings, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, was noted. Carroll is now ranked 3rd out of all 24 jurisdictions in the State of Maryland for health factors and health outcomes. Priority health issues for improvement were named, as well as some of the components of the Community Benefit and Health Improvement plan that will be finalized in June 2016.

In an interactive exercise, local citizens, health partners, and experts attending the event were asked to contribute their ideas of what constitutes a healthy community. Their input – including features such as clean air, good health care, and accessible parks - is being used to create a 30" by 48" painting that is Carroll County's *Vision of a Healthy Community*. The painting will travel around the County and be displayed at local organizations to showcase the Vision. Contact The Partnership at 410-871-7645 or ThePartnership@HealthyCarroll.org for more information if your public organization is interested in displaying this artwork.

Outstanding contributors to our community's health were recognized during the event. Rev. Gerald Fuss, Chair of the Access to Health Care Leadership Team, was honored with the Karen Feroli Community Champion Award for his many years of dedicated work toward improving health in our community. The Dr. Janet W. Neslen Award was presented to Greg Kahlert for exceptional support of local health organizations, including Carroll Hospital, Access Carroll, and Carroll Hospice. Cathy Mitzel, the leader of the North Carroll *Walk Carroll* walking group, was

thanked and presented with the gift of a new pair of walking shoes for her contribution to improving health for others.

Speakers from Carroll Hospital and Carroll County Health Department and The Partnership shared information about developments in several priority areas, including Chronic Disease Prevention and Substance Abuse. Speakers from Carroll Hospital and Carroll County Health Department and The Partnership shared information about developments in several priority areas, including Chronic Disease Prevention and Substance Abuse. A video created by the Carroll County Prevention Office that has received national recognition, titled "Don't be a Friend, Be a Parent", was shown. Also, Lisa Wack of The Partnership outlined ongoing efforts to increase health insurance enrollment through the Maryland Health Exchange.

For more information about The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County or about *We're On Our Way,* The Partnership's annual community health forum, visit HealthyCarroll.org.

PHOTO #1 CAPTION: Left to right – Abby Gruber, Chair, The Partnership Board of Directors – Renee Cohen, Field Representative, Office of Senator Ben Cardin – Dorothy Fox, Executive Director and CEO, The Partnership

PHOTO #2 CAPTION: Left to right – Ellen Finnerty Myers, Chief Development Officer, Carroll Hospital – Rev. Gerald Fuss, Karen Feroli Community Champion Award recipient - Dorothy Fox, Executive Director and CEO, The Partnership

PHOTO #3 CAPTION: Left to right – Ed Singer, Health Officer, Carroll County Health Department – Greg Kahlert, Dr. Janet W. Neslen Award recipient - Dorothy Fox, Executive Director and CEO, The Partnership

PHOTO #4 CAPTION: Left to right – Roy Libdan, Director of Operations, The Partnership – Cathy Mitzell, North Carroll *Walk Carroll* Leader **–** Caitlin Cross, Community Health Improvement Specialist, The Partnership

The Partnership for a Healthier Carroll County, Inc., an affiliate of Carroll Hospital Center and the Carroll County Health Department, is a private nonprofit organization working to improve health by ***connecting people, inspiring action, and strengthening community****.*

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