



championsofhealth.org

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2015 Champions of Health Winners Announced

TULSA, OKLA. — The Family & Children’s Services – Women in Recovery (WIR) program has been named the recipient of the Dr. Rodney L. Huey Memorial Champion of Oklahoma Health, the highest honor of the Champions of Health awards. The Tulsa-based program focuses on improving the complex health and wellness needs of women facing long prison sentences for non-violent, drug offenses by offering a holistic and intensive alternative health and treatment center.

WIR works closely with the criminal justice system and various community partners to ensure program participants receive case management supervision, substance abuse and mental health treatment, education, workforce readiness training and family reunification services. The program has improved participants’ behavioral and physical health, recovery from addiction, and self-sufficiency, resulting in 91 percent of graduates avoiding incarceration.

Since 2004, the Champions of Health awards have honored organizations and individuals who are making a difference in the health of Oklahomans. As the Champion of Oklahoma Health, the Family & Children’s Services – Women in Recovery program will receive a \$15,000 grant, which will be presented at the 2015 Champions of Health gala on Sept. 29 at the Cox Business Center in Tulsa. National Baseball Hall of Famer and Oklahoman Johnny Bench will be the keynote speaker. Tickets to the Champions of Health gala are available for \$100 each and may be purchased through Sept. 22 by calling (855) 628-8642.

The Champions of Health gala benefits the Oklahoma Caring Foundation, a 501(c)(3) organization that provides Oklahoma children with immunizations at no charge. For more information about sponsorships or the gala, visit championsofhealth.org.

A full list and description of Champions of Health winners and finalists, follows below.

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In addition to the Dr. Rodney L. Huey Memorial Champion of Oklahoma Health award, these winners also will be recognized at the gala:

Champion of Children’s Health

WINNER: Suzanne Nance Cyrus, Action Based Learning (Tulsa)

FINALIST: Cabrini Wellness Ministry (Oklahoma City)

FINALIST: Global Gardens (Tulsa)

Champion of the Uninsured

WINNER: Oklahoma Project Woman, Inc. (Tulsa and Oklahoma City)

FINALIST: Hospice of Green Country (Tulsa)

Champion of Senior Health

WINNER: Eastern Oklahoma Donated Dental Services, Inc. (Tulsa)

FINALIST: Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Healthy Aging (Talahina)

Community Health Champion

WINNER: D-Dent (Statewide)

FINALIST: HeartLine, Inc. (Oklahoma City)

Corporate Health Champion

WINNER: Oklahoma State University (Stillwater)

FINALIST: Nabholz Construction Corporation (Oklahoma City and Tulsa)

The Champions of Health awards program is presented by the Office of Secretary of State and Native American Affairs, the Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians, the Oklahoma Dental Association, the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, the Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality, the Oklahoma Health Care Authority, the Oklahoma Hospital Association, the Oklahoma Osteopathic Association, the Oklahoma Primary Care Association, the Oklahoma State Department of Health and the Oklahoma State Medical Association in partnership with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company.

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The Oklahoma Caring Foundation, Inc. is a nonprofit organization administered as an in kind gift by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Oklahoma, a Division of Health Care Service Corporation, a Mutual Legal Reserve Company. These companies are independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.



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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT EACH WINNER:

Champion of Children's Health – Suzanne Nance Cyrus, Action Based Learning

Suzanne Cyrus, a public educator for 29 years, a National Board Certified Physical Educator and Health & Wellness Facilitator at Jenks Public Schools, has been instrumental in establishing Action Based Learning (ABL) programs throughout her school district and state. Suzanne believes in and promotes the body of science supporting increased physical activity throughout the school day to increase academic success and emotional well-being. Suzanne's instructional modeling and coaching have been instrumental in expanding ABL to each Jenks school site as well as across the state.

Champion of the Uninsured – Oklahoma Project Woman

Oklahoma Project Woman (OPW) is dedicated to providing access to breast health care for the uninsured by providing free mammograms, biopsies and surgeries facilitating the early diagnosis of breast cancer and decreasing the mortality rate for uninsured Oklahomans. Studies published in the journal *Cancer* show patients with no insurance tend to be diagnosed with more advanced stages of breast cancer. A lack of insurance has been linked to less access to preventive care, less timely receipt of care and a lower likelihood of receiving needed treatment. Breast cancer is treatable when caught early, but early detection requires access to screening and follow-up with timely and appropriate evaluation of symptoms. OPW makes this possible and navigates each step for the patient.

Champion of Senior Health – Eastern Oklahoma Donated Dental Services

In April 2003, a Tulsa County dental task force discovered an extreme shortage of "no fee" dental care for elderly (65+) Tulsans with physical, mental and financial challenges. With the determination of five individuals, Eastern Oklahoma Donated Dental Services was established in 2004 to resolve the dental dilemma. The program has grown from 125 participating dentists in that year to over 330 today. Over 10,000 Oklahomans have been treated with complete dental care, and EODDS is now the largest program of its kind in the United States.

Community Health Champion – D-Dent

D-DENT's mission is to improve the oral health of low-income, uninsured veterans, elderly and developmentally disabled Oklahomans by providing free preventive dental education and comprehensive dental care through a network of volunteer dentists. D-DENT volunteers provide these life-altering and lifesaving dental procedures in the comfort of each volunteer's private dental clinic, which means the reach of this program extends to all 77 counties of our state. Additionally, complete oral restoration is provided free of charge. For the past 29 years, over 600 volunteer dentists statewide have provided over \$10 million of dental care through D-DENT at no cost to the patient.



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Corporate Health Champion – Oklahoma State University

Oklahoma State University, America's Healthiest Campus®, is a leader in university wellness. OSU defines wellness broadly. It is being the best we can be – the most engaged, most productive, most successful and most confident. It is who we are – more than what we do, much more than diet and exercise. OSU strives to harmonize the physical, emotional, social, spiritual and professional dimensions of wellness. A multifocal, multi-level approach is required for success, so we synergize personal, interpersonal, organizational, environmental and policy behavior change strategies. We are transforming health for our students and our employees.