To: Local Newspapers

From: Melissa DeRoche, Health Educator/PIO

RE: The Good Deeds of Public Health

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Local Public Health Departments Provide Wishes All Year Long

The holidays are fast approaching - it is the time for people of all ages to be thankful for what they have, but also to wish for something more. In 2008, Central Michigan District Health Department employees not only performed their everyday job duties, but also helped families in local communities get what they needed at the time, without having to wait for a special occasion. Here are just a few examples of what local public health department employees have done:

• A pregnant mom came into our clinic where one of our public health nurses found that her blood pressure was high. She instructed the mom to go to the emergency room where they ended up delivering the baby early. Everything went well for both mom and baby.
• A mother came into WIC crying because she didn’t think that her baby could hear. The clerical staff directed her to see the Children’s Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) nurse. The client is now a toddler with hearing implants.
• A new client came into the office to enroll in one of the programs offered by the health department. After completing the initial paperwork, the health department secretary asked the client how she was doing. After some crying and some venting, the client thanked her for caring and replied that no one had ever asked her about anything but medical care before.
• A local family is now proud home-owners, after one of our social workers assisted them with filling out the necessary paperwork to take out a low-interest mortgage on a new home.
• Many local families are now living in homes with safe drinking water thanks to our sanitarians.
• One local family was very grateful that our Environmental Health staff was able to process their application and inspect their properly quickly for their new septic system.
• Our Health Educators have been able to establish trust with many of their clients, which has opened the doors to communication when assisting clients in notifying their partners about potential risks to HIV and syphilis.

For more information on the programs offered by Central Michigan District Health Department, log onto our website at www.cmdhd.org or contact one of our branch office locations.

Central Michigan District Health Department serves the local residents of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon Counties.

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