



PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

Central Michigan District Health Department
"Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities"

For more information, please call: (989) 773-5921 ext. 8409
2012 E. Preston Avenue, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan 48858, www.cmdhd.org

To: Local News Media

**From: Travis DeCarlo Administrative Intern
Central Michigan District Health Department**

RE: 2012 Public Health Summit

Release Date: For Immediate Release

2012 Public Health Summit

The Central Michigan District Health Department hosted the 3rd Annual Public Health Summit as part of the Together We Can Initiative on April 10, 2012. The event, held at the Comfort Inn and Suites in Mount Pleasant, had over 100 attendees from across the central Michigan region. Upon registration, attendees were asked to bring a donation of a fresh fruit or vegetable to the Summit in lieu of a registration fee. A total of twelve grocery bags of produce were donated to local food banks thanks to these contributions.

This year's Summit included three keynote speakers. The first to speak, former Marquette county Health Educator George Sedlacek, gave a presentation on the "Healthy Weight Journal 8 Community Wellness Challenge" he created in Marquette County in northern Michigan. The next keynote speaker was Kim Morley, Chief Executive Officer of the Michigan Health Information Alliance (MiHIA). Ms. Morley spoke about MiHIA's initiative to improve the quality, safety, access, and affordability of health care. Ms. Morley also gave a live demonstration on the MiHIA Health Dashboard. The final speaker was Director of Michigan Department of Community Health Olga Dazzo. Ms. Dazzo's presentation detailed Michigan's current strategies for improving the health of Michigan's citizens and Governor Snyder's 4 x 4 Plan for improving health and wellness in Michigan.

The Summit also included a Together We Can Award ceremony. Awards were presented to individuals and organizations who have worked on projects to help build a healthier community. In the youth category, Amanda Brandenburg, a Harrison High School student received an award due to her effort to create a “Do Something” campaign to promote food donations, clothing drives, and encouraging others to make cards for nursing home residents. Next in the youth category were Rachel Jacobs, Levi Curits, Sapphire Nyman, Damion Pleiman, Rachel Janiga and Molly Smith, who wrote a grant to host an empty bowls dinner to remind citizens of the hunger issues that families face. The group then sold the bowls and used the money to bring a semi truck-load of food to Gladwin County. The last youth award went to Chloe McKinley, Hanna Ruemmler, Oaklie Mogg, Zoey Yarger, and Alisa Melcher for their creation of an anti-bullying campaign at Mary McGuire Elementary School. Awards in the organization/group category were presented to MidMichigan Medical Center-Beaverton Clinic, the Gladwin City Police, Shakers Party Store and Deli, and McLaren Central Michigan. In the individual category, recipients included Bonnie Gaiser, Tom Pirnstill and Sarah Kile.

This event, sponsored by Central Michigan District Health Department, was made possible with support from McLaren Central Michigan, MidMichigan Health, Northern Michigan Substance Abuse Services and the CARLS Center at Central Michigan University.

This article is brought to you by the staff at Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves residents in the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Join us (Central Michigan District Health Department) on Facebook.

###