

PAL Award (Group): Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Health Foundation

This year's Partner and Leadership group award is presented to a group comprised of community leaders and volunteers who work to steer financial support to charitable, educational, and scientific projects designed to improve community health. In the last two years, they have funded projects to provide medical transportation for veterans and counseling services for over 1500 veterans, soldiers and their families. In addition to funding projects that treat disease and increase access to care, the group has also established policies to fund projects addressing behaviors and wellness, awarding grants for community gardens and nutrition education projects. Since 2009, this group has awarded 60 grants designed to improve health in Montgomery County that total over 4.8 Million dollars. Grant recipients and community partners are highly complimentary, noting that this "philanthropic organization has truly set the tone for a happy, safe and healthy community" and that "while of course the funds received are the most important part, the leaders that head up this foundation are the very best the community offers – and are committed to seeing that these grants have a long lasting impact on the local community. It is a great pleasure to announce that this year's Partner and Leadership Group Award goes to the Clarksville-Montgomery County Community Health Foundation.

PAL Award (Individual): Judge Duane Slone

Through his work with the judicial system, this year's recipient began to notice a pattern indicative of a growing public health problem, substance abuse. In an effort to address this issue, he co-founded the 4th Judicial Drug Recovery Court, State of Tennessee in 2009. Through this court, offenders are provided a quality therapeutic community that promoted positive change in criminal and addictive behavior for the purpose of transforming offenders into positive, contributing members of our communities. Additionally, he has provided instrumental leadership in the establishment of the 4th Judicial Recovery Services, Inc. which provides residential treatment for pregnant women in recovery. One letter of support notes that "he is a trailblazer among his judicial colleagues and is the first sitting judge to incorporate mandatory education on NAS and family planning into sentencing for all drug charge defendants."

He has also been instrumental in the start up and sustaining of the Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome/Voluntary Long Acting Reversible Contraception program

which began as a pilot process in 2013. Colleagues believe that “he is a true advocate for the babies and families that are impacted by drug abuse and addiction”. Another supporter summarized it perfectly: “Our communities, region and state are stronger and more babies are born healthier because of his passionate commitment to our partnership and our mutual goal of eliminating NAS.” I am pleased to announce that this year’s Partnership and Leadership Individual award is presented to Judge Duane Slone.

Public Health Group Award: Upper Cumberland Region staff

This year’s Public Health Work Group Award is presented to a group of public health professionals who are described as going above and beyond assigned tasks, taking personal risks to assure that others needs are met. In February of 2015, their skills were tested as their community was struck by a severe winter storm. Regional staff responded by traveling in dangerous conditions, assisted in managing a norovirus outbreak and managed shelter residents with various needs. They worked tirelessly to assure that those in need were served to the best of their ability, oftentimes going above and beyond everyday responsibilities. The region utilized 94 team members for 11 days working around the clock. The regional staff showed great dedication and responded without hesitation to the needs of their communities even when some of their homes and families were affected by the storm.

One letter of support states that the “selfless service to the citizens of Tennessee by team members exemplifies public health at its best.” It is my pleasure to award the Public Health Group Award to the Upper Cumberland Region Staff.

Public Health Worker of the Year Award: Kevin Morris

This year’s public health worker of the year award is presented to someone described as a dedicated public health professional who is enthusiastic and compassionate about his role. During his 23 year public health career, he has held many important roles including community health services coordinator, emergency response coordinator, county director and regional epidemiologist. In recent years, this person has been instrumental in both measles and ebola outbreaks, always willing to take on extra work responsibilities and assist others.

In April 2014, he led a team of medical providers who investigated a very detailed and complicated measles outbreak. He worked with numerous hospitals, medical clinics, health departments, and infection control departments, among others. He is quick to share his knowledge and communicate with community partners on new issues that develop locally. In addition to his daily responsibilities, he is also a Baldrige examiner as well as a 20 year member of TPHA, serving on many committees. Colleagues are quick to describe him as a great example of what a public health worker should strive to be, citing that in his role as epidemiologist, they know their region is well protected, monitored and informed when it comes to Communicable Disease. It is a great pleasure to present this year's public health worker of the year award to Mr. Kevin Morris.

R.H. Hutcheson Sr. MD Award: Amanda McElyea

With over 40 years of public health experience, this year's RH Hutcheson Sr. MD award recipient is a career public health nurse with genuine concern for patients, staff and her community. Over the course of her long career, she has graciously served Public Health and her community in a variety of roles and is tirelessly committed to providing patients and staff with a quality standard of holistic care. In addition to being a Public Health Nurse, she has also worked for Mountain States Health Alliance Ask-A-Nurse for more than 20 years and has served as a Red Cross Volunteer Nurse in Disaster Health Services and was even recognized for her outstanding leadership. In addition to her daily responsibilities, she also contributes to the development of the future public health workforce by serving as a preceptor for Masters Level Nursing Students, always encouraging them to pursue a career in Public Health. Her work with students has resulted in the recruitment and retention of countless nurses in the region. She is well respected by her colleagues and some noted that she has a true "public health heart", striving to serve her employees and clients with the best possible care and provision of resources. This year's recipient has worked with many community organizations to assure that Public Health functions are a viable component of the overall healthcare picture. She has worked hard to develop relationships and partnerships to encourage a collaborative effort to accomplish many health care objectives. One example is the close working relationship that she has developed with city and county school officials to plan and implement school located flu vaccine clinics. Compassionate, Dedicated and committed to the community, this

year's recipient is very deserving of this award. It is my pleasure to announce that the 2015 R.H. Hutcheson Sr. MD award is presented to Ms. Amanda McElyea.

Alex B. Shipley MD Award: Danni Lambert

This year's recipient of the Alex B. Shipley MD award has been described as a public health professional who is dedicated to the health and welfare of women in East Tennessee. She has held several different roles during her public health career. As part of an effort to decrease the incidence of Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, she co-founded a successful Voluntary Long-Acting Reversible Contraception Clinic for at-risk women in her region. After just one year, it has reduced births complicated by NAS in this population and has become a model for similar programs throughout the state. Additionally, she has developed excellent working relationships with community partners to promote awareness for cancer prevention through improved educational and screening opportunities. To say that she is passionate about public health would be an understatement. As one colleague noted, "the wonderful thing about her is that her energy is infectious, not overwhelming. She can motivate a team, get the job done, and still have time to comfort a client or coworker". She is an untiring advocate for public health – she continues to expose future family physicians to the option of a career in public health and due to her dedication, many are more likely to consider this as a career option. Her dedication and commitment are admired and respected by those she works with. It is an honor to present this year's Alex B. Shipley MD award to Ms. Danni Lambert.