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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County Health Department Celebrates National Public Health Thank You Day

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – Public health organizations across the country will celebrate Public Health Thank You Day on Monday, November 24. This fourth annual celebration honors local public health heroes for leading the daily effort to protect the health of our community. The Sedgwick County Health Department celebrated this day by recognizing four local individuals and organizations for their efforts to improve the health of Sedgwick County, Kansas. This year's awardees were:

- The Health and Wellness Coalition
- The Derby City Council
- Tobacco Free Wichita
- The Late Dr. Doren Fredrickson

Excerpts from each awardee's nomination form follows:

"The Health and Wellness Coalition promotes physical activity and good nutrition in the Wichita area through people, programs, and policies. Each year, the HWC awards area schools mini-grants to improve physical activity and nutrition options for students, faculty, and staff. The HWC has successfully organized the Working Well Conference for the past 4 years in an attempt to encourage workplaces to provide healthy options for employees. Each Conference receives more recognition in the community and statewide, with over 250 participants from area employers attending this past year. In addition, the HWC honors area employers for their efforts in worksite wellness through the "Working Well Award". This award recognizes workplaces that have created a culture of change towards healthier lifestyles."

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“The Derby City Council passed a comprehensive Clean Indoor Air Ordinance less than one year after passing a less restrictive ordinance. The current ordinance will help protect all workers and residents of Derby from secondhand smoke. The City of Derby staff partners with local community organizations to improve the life of all residents; especially youth.”

“The Tobacco Free Wichita Coalition was instrumental in the passage of a clean indoor air ordinance in Wichita earlier this year. TFW organized the Clean Air Wichita Campaign to educate the community and policy-makers about the dangers of secondhand smoke.”

“Dr. Fredrickson’s work cannot be described by a “year,” any more than it should be described as “work.” Doren’s “passion over the course of a lifetime” is probably a better way to say what he has done to inspire others to excellence, to persevere when the odds seem impossible, to smile when the problems are overwhelming, and to teach always and ultimately to improve the public’s health. Not only the residents of Sedgwick County, but everyone he touched is likely to be positively affected by Dr. Fredrickson’s expertise, his tenacity, and his kind and generous soul.”

A designee of each of the four awardees accepted a plaque at the Sedgwick County Board of County Commissioners Meeting on Wednesday, November 19. A picture of awardees is available upon request.

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