



February 11, 2010

CONTACT:

Heidi Hurst, Regional Director
Heidi.Hurst@chw.edu
(775) 770-6713 (office)
(775) 233-4529 (cell)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

12th Annual Silver Syringe Awards

Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition Recognizes Community Successes

RENO, NV. As we are continually reminded about the areas Nevada is failing in, it's refreshing to recognize areas we are succeeding in, such as immunizations. The individuals and organizations receiving *Silver Syringe Awards* faced many challenges in 2009; but they collaborated, combined resources, developed innovative solutions and expanded services; and because of their efforts, over 50,000 northern Nevadans received vaccines which now protect them against various childhood diseases, Influenza, Hepatitis A/B and more. The Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition (NNIC) is pleased to announce our newest award recipients:

Outstanding Childhood Immunization Program	Carson City Health & Human Services
Outstanding Adolescent Immunization Program	School Nurses from Carson High School / Silver State High School
Outstanding Adult Immunization Program	Nevada Adult Mental Health Hospital
Outstanding Rural Immunization Program	Nevada State Health Division - Public Health Preparedness
Outstanding Influenza Program	Hometown Health
Outstanding Pharmacy Immunization Program	Lieutenant Amber Pagano, Reno-Sparks Tribal Health Center

In addition, NNIC recognizes organizations that have done an outstanding job collaborating within the community to achieve immunization success. This year's *Connecting our Community* winners are: ARES – Amateur Radio Emergency Service; Medical Reserve Corps; CERT – Community Emergency Response Team; Silver Stage Task Force; and students from University of Nevada Reno CHS 337. We are also proud to recognize area providers who had immunization rates of 80% or better: Jane Diedrichsen, MD; Saint Mary's Immunization Program; Saint Mary's Nell J. Redfield Health Center; The Medical Profession, LLC; Jay Chamberlain, MD and Patrick Colletti, MD.

"Congratulations to these immunization champions and their ongoing dedication to keeping our family members, friends, neighbors and co-workers healthy. We look forward to another outstanding year of projects from these winners and all our coalition partners." said Heidi Hurst, regional director for NNIC.

Winners will be recognized at a special luncheon at noon on February 26th, 2010 at Saint Mary's Hospital Auditorium (C). In addition to the award presentation, attendees will have the opportunity to hear Nevada State Health Officer, Tracey D. Green, MD and the Nevada State Immunization Program speak about immunizations in Nevada. Seats are \$10 and reservations can be made by calling Heidi Hurst, Regional Director at 775-770-6713 or emailing Heidi.Hurst@chw.edu. Limited tickets are available at the door for \$15.

###

About the Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition

The Northern Nevada Immunization Coalition (NNIC) is a non-profit, community organization committed to protecting the health of northern Nevada residents by providing education to parents, health care professionals and community members. More information about immunizations in Nevada can be found at www.ImmunizeNevada.org.