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## ***Community Health Partnership Names 2007 Genius Award Winners***

*Awards honor achievements and contributions to improving public health in Oregon*

PORTLAND, OR – Although Community Health Partnership's 2007 award recipients have different areas of expertise, they share a strong commitment and the exemplary ability to improve the health of Oregon residents.

Community Health Partnership (CHP) sought nominees from throughout Oregon whose work has resulted in significant and lasting change in improving the health of Oregonians. The Public Health Genius Award is intended to recognize and acknowledge those who demonstrate responsiveness to Oregon residents in need and whose work is distinguished by creativity, risk taking and boldness toward forging permanent improvements in the health of the public.

Suzanne Briggs achieved Public Health Genius status by tackling one of the most fundamental needs of humans — access to healthy food. Suzanne is responsible, in large part, for the resurgence of farmers' markets in the Portland area and across the state. Not only did she co-found the Hollywood Farmers' Market in NE Portland, but she also led the revival of the Oregon Farmers' Market Association and helped organize the Kaiser-Permanente Farmers' Market at its Interstate campus. She also helped pioneer the Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) at farmers' markets, which allows food stamps to be used, making access easier for underserved populations, thereby reducing health disparities and improving their food supply. Suzanne was nominated by Nancy Stevens, Director, Community Benefits and Health at Kaiser Permanente.

Gaelen McAllister is recipient of the 2007 Public Health Exceptional Award. As a parent volunteer with Stand for Children, Gaelen spearheaded efforts to improve school breakfasts and snacks in the Salem-Keizer school district and worked actively to pass statewide school nutrition legislation. Gaelen worked with the food supplier, Sodexo, to improve the nutritional offerings at breakfast and lunch at Bush Elementary School. She then expanded her efforts to the district level, participating on the Salem-Keizer School Nutrition Task Force to improve the nutrition of food available in student stores, vending machines and a la carte bars. With her proven success, she provided powerful testimony at hearings for HB2650 to set standards for foods and beverages sold outside the federal meals programs in schools. Gaelen was nominated by Dana Hepper, Salem-Keizer Organizer, at Stand for Children.

The MoVelocity Creative Team is recipient of the 2007 Merit Award. MoVelocity.org is a web-based tool where participants log the miles traveled or minutes engaged in any physical activity: walking, biking, gardening, walking the dog, etc. One of the chief challenges the creators of MoVelocity faced was how to engage those living in rural areas, where there is little access to gyms, bike paths or sidewalks. The no-cost, no-equipment, no-age barrier approach created a groundswell of individual and community physical activity in rural Douglas County, and has the potential to be a model for the rest of the state. The MoVelocity.org Team was nominated by Marilyn Carter, Team Lead for Healthy Active Douglas County.

CHP will honor this year's recipients at the sixth annual award luncheon in Portland on October 23, 2007. Dr. Harold Goldstein from the California Center for Public Health Advocacy will describe the role advocacy plays in creating effective public health policy to improve health. The event is open to the public. To reserve your seat for the awards luncheon or for more information, please contact Community Health Partnership at 503-227-5502.

Community Health Partnership: Oregon's Public Health Institute, founded in 1999 as Friends of Public Health, is a not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve the health of Oregonians through advocacy and support of effective public health policy and activities. The organization is currently focused on improving Oregon's children's nutrition and physical activity.

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