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Public Health Champion Awards Ceremony

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For more information phone 619-692-8441 or send us an [email](#).

Public Health Service's Mission: "Protect and enhance the health of the community by promoting health, preventing disease, and communicating public health information."

Live Well, San Diego! 2013 Public Health Champion Awards



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The County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency (HHSA) Public Health Services is proud to announce the 12th Annual *Live Well, San Diego!* Public Health Champion Awards. These awards recognize the extraordinary achievements, by an individual and organization, in areas of public health services that protect and promote the health of San Diego County residents. The awards were created to recognize the role of public/private collaboration in advancing optimal health and wellness in the County's diverse populations. This year's theme award will recognize achievements related to National Public Health Week's (NPHW) 2013's theme:

Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money!

The Public Health Champion Awards Ceremony is a component of the County of San Diego's "Live Well, San Diego! Building Better Health" initiative, a 10-year strategic vision for improving health and wellness and combating the toll of chronic diseases, including obesity.

The Awards Program will be held in early April, 2013 in conjunction with National Public Health Week at the County Administration Center.

This year the categories are as follows:

1. Public Health Champion Awards - Theme:
"Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money!"
2. Public Health Champion Award - Individual
3. Public Health Champion Award - Organization

3. Public Health Champion Award - Organization
4. Public Health Champion Award - Regional (One award given in each of the six HHSAs regions and Aging and Independence Services.)

Timeline for Awards:

February 8, 2013	Deadline for submission of applications
March 2013	Final awardees notified
April 5, 2013	Public Health Champion Awards Ceremony County Administration Center, Board Chambers (Room 310) from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Reception to follow in County Administration Center Rooms 302/303

- [Public Health Champion Nomination Criteria 2013](#)
- [Public Health Champion Nomination Form 2013](#)

Please contact [Lillian Jalali by email](#) or by phone at (619) 692-8441 with any questions or concerns.

The 2013 *Live Well, San Diego!* Public Health Champion Award recipients are:

Theme Award: Escondido Union School District's CARE Youth Project

The Escondido Union School District's CARE Youth Project is a program that strengthens links and partnerships to create a safer and healthier Escondido. The project brings together school administrators, teachers, parents, and residents to change the culture of the school district. Some of the project's programs include attendance interventions, substance abuse intervention activities, crisis management and community education.

Individual Award: Valerie Swain

For the past 19 years, Valerie Swain has worked for the Palomar Health Downtown Campus Outpatient Surgery as a surgical charge nurse. She is also a volunteer at Interfaith Community Services (ICS), where she has served meals to hundreds of homeless veterans for over a decade. Swain was a key figure in the creation of a partnership between Palomar Health and ICS that provides recuperative care for Palomar Health homeless patients after they leave the hospital.

Organization Award: South Bay Community Services

South Bay Community Services (SBCS), the largest social service and community development organization in the South Bay, offers emergency shelter; transitional and affordable housing; prevention, early intervention, and diversion services for youth; health screenings, assessments and treatment for children and early educational opportunities. SBCS serves more than 50,000 families and individuals each year.

Regional Awards

Nora Faine – Central Region

Nora Faine, M.D., M.P.H., medical director of Molina Healthcare, has worked to improve the health and well-being of San Diegans for more than 23 years. She oversees all clinical operations, management programs, and quality improvement efforts for Molina Healthcare, which serves more than 74,000 San Diego residents. Faine is also a member of several community groups, including the California Wellness Foundation's Children and Youth

Community Health Initiatives Advisory Committee, San Diego Care Initiative Task Force, and the San Diego County Health Literacy Taskforce.

Carol Lewis – East Region

Carol Lewis is the chairperson for the Mountain Empire Collaborative, which includes local groups, agencies and individuals who provide health and wellness services to the community. These services aim to reduce chronic disease by improving access to healthy foods and eliminating so-called "food deserts" in East County. The collaborative's work includes developing a community garden and nutritional program; dental services; health and safety forums and programs that bring physical activity into area schools.

Sheri Easterly – North Central Region

Sheri Easterly has worked in human development for more than two decades. She is currently the program manager for the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Program at Social

the program manager for the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Prevention Program at Social Advocates for Youth (SAY) San Diego. Her work focuses on policy, media advocacy, community organizing and youth development. Easterly is also involved with several community coalitions that work to empower parents and community residents to take an active role in building healthy and safe places to live.

North Coastal Prevention Coalition – North Coastal Region

For the past 20 years, the North Coastal Prevention Coalition has worked to reduce the harm of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana, and other drugs by advocating for policy and systems changes in the cities of Carlsbad, Oceanside and Vista. The coalition includes community residents, educators, law enforcement, prevention and treatment representatives, government officials and community-based organizations.

Georganne Grotey – North Inland Region

Georganne Grotey serves as a senior services supervisor for the San Marcos Senior Center, which serves 650 seniors daily. Under her leadership, the senior center provides wellness programs, services, and resources for active seniors and their families. Grotey played an important part in the establishment of the San Marcos Intergenerational Community Garden. She also advocates for senior wellness and intergenerational programs as a participant in the North County Intergenerational Community Council, Palomar Health Community Action Council, Project Care Advisory Council and the North County Community Action Network.

Sonia Ruan – South Region

Sonia Ruan is the principal at Kimball Elementary in National City. She works to identify the social, emotional and health barriers that prevent students' success. This work includes a mentorship program with San Diego State University and partnering with many community agencies via the Kimball Elementary School Workgroup. Ruan is currently working to establish a Communities of Excellence Project, which aims to increase healthy choices on the school's lunch menu.

Anna Solis – Aging and Independence Services

Since 1999, Anna Solis has worked as an exercise instructor for the Feeling Fit Club exercise program in conjunction with HHSA's Aging and Independence Services. The program offers exercise classes for older adults that focus on functional fitness to help participants remain healthy and independent.

Director's Award

Love Your Heart Collaborative

The County and its partners created the "Love Your Heart" campaign two years ago to address heart disease and stroke in the region. Through the campaign, free blood pressure screenings were offered to residents at more than 60 locations on Valentine's Day. The screenings were offered by the County of San Diego Health and Human Services Agency, Department of Human Resources and the San Diego County Fire Authority, in partnership with Kaiser Permanente San Diego, U.S. HealthWorks, Anthem Blue Cross of California, Be There-Right Care Initiative, City of San Diego firefighters, CALFIRE, volunteer firefighters, nursing students from Azusa Pacific

University, Cal State University San Marcos, Point Loma Nazarene University, and San Diego State University. 2-1-1 San Diego gave residents information about screening sites, hours and locations. A total of 2,016 people got their blood pressure checked during the event.