



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE 04-30-08

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Michigan Hometown Heroes Honored

Local woman among those honored

Ithaca/Stanton/St. Johns~ The Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD), which serves Clinton, Gratiot and Montcalm Counties, is pleased to announce that Judy Weber, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, has been selected as one of ten Hometown Health Heroes by the Michigan Association for Local Public Health (MALPH).

This year's Hometown Health Heroes will be honored at the Capitol in Lansing on April 22, 2008 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. in a ceremony coinciding with the celebration of Michigan's Public Health Week (April 14 – April 22).

Weber was nominated for the award by Robert M. Barrie, MPH, Division of Health, Wellness and Disease Control, Michigan Department of Community Health.

“Judy Weber’s initiative, drive and creativity have enabled MMDHD to become an exemplary model for other local health departments in Michigan,” said Barrie. “She has not only provided leadership, but has collaborated with programs and agencies within and beyond the jurisdiction of the agency in order to form a substantial base to coordinate emergency preparedness in response to both climate change and other sources of natural disasters and health emergencies.”

Weber has devoted her career to public health, having received her Master’s of Public Health at the University of Michigan in 1973, with a focus in epidemiology. Weber held several key coordinating and management positions at the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) where she worked for 26 ½ years.

Weber began her career at MMDHD in 2002. Her work includes a broad variety of responsibilities, including planning, updating and implementing emergency preparedness plans and strategies. She has taken the lead in coordinating the agency’s response to influenza pandemic, natural disasters and other health-related emergencies.

“I am thankful to have Judy as a member of the health department staff and honored to see her receive this state-wide recognition,” said Kimberly Singh, MMDHD Health Officer. “Judy works effortlessly to assure public health stands ready and prepared for unforeseen events and disasters.”

MALPH, which was founded in 1985, represents Michigan’s 45 city, county and district health departments before the state and federal legislative and executive branches of government and is the only organization of its kind in the nation.

For more information on MMDHD or its services visit www.mmdhd.org.

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Kim Singh, Mid-Michigan District Health Department Health Officer; Judy Weber, Mid-Michigan District Health Department Emergency Preparedness Coordinator; and Dr. Jackie Scott, Public Health Preparedness Director for Michigan Department of Community Health.