

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 2, 2007

CONTACT: Anne Short
Alliance for Health in Cleveland County, Inc.
315 East Grover Street
Shelby, NC 28150
704-484-5112
Anne.short@clevelandcounty.com

PAMELA ELLWOOD RECEIVES RECOGNITION AS PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF AWARD WINNER FROM GLAXOSMITHKLINE FOUNDATION

Pamela Ellwood, RN, FNP-C, a nurse practitioner on staff at the Cleveland County Health Department, has been named as the recipient of the 2007 North Carolina Public Health Staff Recognition Award from the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation. The award was presented to Ms. Ellwood at a luncheon in Durham, North Carolina on September 26, 2007. Ms. Ellwood was one of two winners, the other being Amanda Marvin, a health education specialist from the Alamance County Health Department. GlaxoSmithKline created the child health recognition awards program in 1994 to recognize excellence and innovation in child health care and to encourage the development of creative, effective approaches in the field of public health. The awards are designed to showcase exceptional and innovative programs that improve the lives of children in North Carolina.

The Public Health Staff Recognition Award is given to full-time or part-time employees or retirees of local health departments in recognition of outstanding service in preventive health activities in their local communities. Ms. Ellwood was honored for her work in serving asthma-afflicted children and their families through activities sponsored by the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition.

After joining the local health department staff in 1999, she noticed the need for supportive services for children with asthma. She undertook a collaborative process with community stakeholders to form and sustain the Asthma Coalition which developed a mission statement and a strategic plan to guide its work. The Coalition currently provides basic asthma education classes for children, adults and their family members, training for school personnel and child care providers, a No-Wheeze Asthma Day Camp in collaboration with the Dover Foundation YMCA, a media campaign and air quality flag program to raise community awareness about asthma and a loaner program for families who cannot afford to purchase nebulizers and other equipment required for the successful management of asthma.

Ms. Ellwood has been honored as a “North Carolina Asthma Champion” from the Asthma Alliance of North Carolina for her work with the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition. This was the first such award given by the Asthma Alliance in the state.

Ms. Ellwood is a native of Saco, Maine and spent thirty years in upstate New York prior to moving to North Carolina. She received her RN diploma from Presbyterian Hospital School of Nursing in Charlotte, her BS in Sociology from the College of St. Rose in Albany, New York and her certificate as a Nurse Practitioner from Albany Medical College. She is certified as a Family and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner. She also received the Certified Asthma Educator designation from the National Asthma Education Certification Board and holds a diploma in Asthma and COPD Management from the National Respiratory Training Center. She is also certified by the American Lung Association as a trainer for the adult asthma education program Breathe Well, Live Well.

Ms. Ellwood is the mother of two children, a son who lives in Los Angeles, California and a daughter who lives in New York City.

For additional information about the Cleveland County Asthma Coalition, please contact the Asthma Hotline at 704.484.5195 or via website at <http://www.clevelandcounty.com/public/health/alliance/pages/programs/asthma.html>.

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