

Cleveland County Health Department Honored



Cleveland County Health Department is recipient of the 2009 GlaxoSmithKline Child Health Recognition Award. *Local Health Department Recognition Awards* were made to departments that have developed innovative programs producing measurable, sustainable outcomes. The **Cleveland County Health Department** received the award for its “**Making Vaccination a Family Affair**” program. The Cleveland County Health Department, through collaborative efforts with the Alliance for Health, the local veterinarians, the Cleveland County Board of Commissioners, the Cleveland County Board of Health and the Cleveland County Animal Control Program, took a proactive approach to address and bring more awareness for the need to have more children and families vaccinated for tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) and for pets to be vaccinated for rabies. The Cleveland County Health Department received a monetary grant for \$5,000. The Board of Health accepted the grant and allocated the money to be used to purchase additional vaccines to support future vaccination clinics.

Cleveland County was listed as the fourth highest county for the number of rabid animal cases in 2007. Cleveland County staff became very creative and looked at an approach to increase the number of animals that need rabies vaccinations, and the number of children and their families that needed to be vaccinated for Tdap by offering vaccinations at a drive through clinic. To address this pressing need, the Cleveland County Board of Health requested funding from the

Board of Commissioners to be able to offer vaccination clinics several times a year for Cleveland County citizens. This innovative approach has produced measurable, sustainable outcomes and has increased the level of awareness, education, disease protection and safety of Cleveland County children and their families.

North Carolina public health professionals were honored with GlaxoSmithKline Child Health Recognition Awards for their successes in children's health programs. All nominees were recognized and winners announced at an awards ceremony in Asheville during the North Carolina Public Health Association's annual meeting. The awards showcase innovative programs that improve the lives of North Carolina's children. This year's awards focus on outstanding collaborative programs that affect the health of children.

The GlaxoSmithKline Child Health Recognition Awards were established to honor health departments, public health staff and individual citizens for their dedication to improving child health. A committee of healthcare professionals established by the North Carolina Public Health Association chose the award recipients. The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation provides monetary grants for educational and other purposes.

GlaxoSmithKline is one of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and health care companies, and is committed to improving the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better, and live longer. We are dedicated to preventing and fighting disease by bringing innovative medicines and services to patients and health care providers who serve them.