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Health District Celebrates Volunteers during National Volunteer Week

The Central Connecticut Health District held a reception on April 20th to thank the many volunteers who help make the Health District's public health program successful. Volunteers assist in household hazardous waste collections, emergency preparedness drills, prescription counseling, skin cancer screenings, glucose screenings, and food safety programs.

The largest group of volunteers, however, works at the annual vaccination clinics for influenza and pneumonia. This past flu immunization season, flu vaccinations had to be administered for both seasonal and H1N1 influenza. A total of 3211 seasonal flu shots 6335 H1N1 vaccinations, and 130 pneumonia shots was given at 32 public clinics in Berlin, Newington, Rocky Hill, and Wethersfield. This was accomplished by a staff of 12 and a volunteer force of 77 people. Two of the volunteers participated in nearly every one of the seasonal and H1N1 clinics, and in recognition of their outstanding service, Patricia Rinaldi and Louis Winkler received "Golden Syringe" awards at the reception. Both have been long-time volunteers with the Health District.

In addition to the individual volunteers, both medical and non-medical, the Wethersfield-Rocky Hill Professional Nurses Association has been instrumental for 37 years in the effort to immunize people residing or working within the Health District. In appreciation for the nurses' continued assistance, Director of Health Paul Hutcheon presented Patricia Rinaldi, the President of the Wethersfield/Rocky Hill Professional Nurses Association, with a check for \$500 for their scholarship program. Each year, the nurses' association awards scholarships to Connecticut students who are pursuing a career in nursing.

The Central Connecticut Health District is able to offer a number of public health services and programs to its residents free or at low cost in large part because of the generosity and talents of our volunteers. To learn more about the Health District, its programs, and volunteer opportunities, call 860-721-2822 or visit the web site at www.ccthd.org.



