

Healthy Communities Coalition Receives Human Services Network Award

The Human Services Network's annual celebration of excellence in the human services community was held in Reno on Feb. 17, 2010. Among those honored during the awards ceremony were staff and partners of Healthy Communities Coalition. See www.humanservicesnetwork.org for more information about HSN.

About 15 citizen volunteers and representatives from among more than 30 regional agencies that are members of Healthy Communities Coalition attended the awards banquet. Christy McGill, director of the Coalition, stressed that the success of the Coalition is due to the hard work of community volunteers and partners. She praised volunteers like Olga Nanez, Sue Vanus and 5 year old Hailey Vanus who are a large part of the success of the increasingly important Dayton Food Bank, and volunteer coordinators such as Comstock Service Exchange's Bob Zamiar. McGill also pointed out citizen task force member Rod Sanchez, who cheerfully puts in long hours to strengthen his town. Sanchez, director of Silver Springs Senior Center and a member of the Silver Stage Task Force of Healthy Communities, has volunteered for a number of projects that connected local seniors with youth for job training, creation of a community garden, suicide prevention training, and a prescription drug abuse prevention forum. Finally, McGill highlighted Coalition partners including Walker River Community Coalition, Lyon Sheriff's Department, Lyon Human Services, Community Chest, and Lyon County School District who have worked together to tackle pressing community issues such as rising unemployment, hunger, prescription drug misuse, underage drinking and suicide rates.

Other award winners included

Politician of the Year **Speaker of the Assembly Barbara Buckley**

Board Member of the Year **James Miller (Renown Health) for High Sierra Industries**

Administrator of the Year **Niki Atcheson King from Access to Health Care Network**

Agency of the Year **Northern Nevada RAVE Family Foundation**

Bob Fulkerson of the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada (PLAN) received the Mike O'Callaghan Humanitarian Award which recognizes an exemplary individual who has shown an exceptional and outstanding interest, concern and assistance personally and professionally in the area of human services without need or personal gain or recognition.

Julie Vann and Rene Biondo from Washoe County District Court won the Staff members of the year award which pays tribute to those who have excelled as employees of public or private non-profit agencies that provide services to those in need.

The Human Services Network supports collective action for quality human services in the Northern Nevada area through networking, advocacy on policy issues, outreach, and

professional development. The awards ceremony was made possible through Champion Sponsor NV Energy and Advocate Sponsors Charles Schwab Bank, Clark and Associates and Renown Health.

Healthy Communities Coalition includes community Task Forces, Stand Tall youth leadership and drug prevention teams, and a regional provider membership with over 30 local, county, state, tribal, and federal agencies all working on a collaborative leadership agenda to increase community well-being and to end poverty and reduce tobacco, alcohol and other drug abuse in the Lyon, Storey, and Mineral County areas. See www.healthycomm.org or call 246-7550 for more information.

