MEDIA RELEASE

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Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department announced as the 2015 Public Health Champion

The Kittitas County Board of Health Advisory Committee (BOHAC) is pleased to announce that the City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department has been awarded the first annual Kittitas County Public Health Champion Award of $500. We recognize City of Ellensburg Parks and Recreation Department’s noteworthy work regarding the breadth of programming for local residents across the lifespan. The recipient will be recognized at the Kittitas County Board of Health meeting on Thursday, April 16th, 2015 at 10am in the Commissioner’s Auditorium at the county courthouse.

The Parks and Recreation Department’s programming reaches all ages of our community. The park spaces themselves offer families and neighbors a place to build and strengthen social ties. The sports complexes have given hundreds of families and thousands of youth opportunities to build both physical and emotional resilience. Each of these examples reflects health benefits for our community and guests. Ultimately we appreciate the range of opportunities for families, neighbors, and strangers to share positive experiences and build community. Congratulations and thank you to Parks and Recreation!

The Kittitas County Public Health Champion Award recognizes individuals, groups, or organizations that make significant contributions to the health of Kittitas County. The recipient will receive $500 to $1000 to be used for current or future projects that contribute to the health of Kittitas County. The award is currently funded by a generous donation from former Kittitas County Health Officer Jim Gale.

“We received nominations of several individuals and organizations doing wonderful work to support health in our community, and had a challenging decision in choosing our 2015 Champion. We looked for an awardee whose impact reaches many, whose work is visible as a community health partner, and where our small award can aid in continuing or expanding the effort. We look forward to recognizing other Public Health Champions in the coming years “said Dr. Rebecca Pearson, BOHAC Chair.

The mission of BOHAC is to provide advisory feedback and formal recommendations, to both the Board of Health and the Health Department of Kittitas County, related to policy, funding, initiatives, and emergent needs, in support of the goals and mission of the Kittitas County Public Health Department. If you would like to donate to the Annual Kittitas County Public Health Champion Award fund, please contact Bob Davis, BOHAC Treasurer, at drdavis44@gmail.com.

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