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**Stanly County Dentist Captures  
NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award**

*- Dr. Mindy Turner Has Helped Thousands of Students -*

**Charlotte, NC** – Mindy Turner, DDS, likes to see patients by their first birthday, to check for signs of tooth decay and to teach parents about proper care of their babies’ teeth. She knows that starting very young patients on the path to good oral health will make a difference in their lives as they grow. Her passion for bettering children’s health earned her the Individual Recognition Award in the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation’s 2018 Child Health Recognition Awards program.

She advocates and educates people that very young children need dental care, that it’s very important. Baby teeth help children chew and speak properly and hold space for permanent teeth, so Dr. Turner likes to see patients by the time they turn one. Dr. Turner helped establish the Stanly County Dental Clinic in 2002, when it opened to children enrolled in the local Head Start programs. It is now a thriving children’s dental clinic. Dr. Turner has collaborated with local school nurses to place sealants on all 2nd and 3rd graders, in the Stanly County School System, and partners with many other programs and health care providers to promote oral health education and reduce childhood tooth decay.

In addition to being the county’s only pediatric dentist and running the clinic, Dr. Turner is an adjunct professor at UNC-Chapel Hill Dental School and serves as preceptor for the UNC-Dentistry in Service to Communities Program, providing a clinical site for dental students and dental hygiene students. Thousands of children in Stanly County have benefited from Dr. Turner’s big heart and passion for better dental care.

**The Awards Program**

The awards are designed to showcase exceptional and innovative programs that improve the lives of North Carolina’s children. This year’s awards focus on programs that address evidenced-based issues of particular significance to the community being served and work in partnership with others to help improve health outcomes for children. Key focus areas include asthma, dental health, environmental health (healthy homes), immunizations, low birth weight, mental health, nutrition and substance abuse, including drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

All nominees were recognized and award recipients announced at a ceremony today in Charlotte during the North Carolina Public Health Association’s (NCPHA) fall meeting. The **Individual Recognition Award** is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to improving children’s health services through a single effort.

Other recipients of the 2018 Child Health Recognition Awards are:

**Lifetime Achievement Recognition**

- Jean Kesler Vukoson, RN (retired), NC DPH, Children and Youth Branch

**Public Health Staff Recognition Award**

- Dorothy Rawleigh, Child Care Health Consultant, Chatham County Public Health Department

**Local Health Department Recognition**

- Chatham County Public Health Department, Immunization Program
- Cleveland County Public Health Center, Virtual Care Clinic
- Granville Vance Public Health, Innovative Approaches

*The Child Health Recognition Awards program was created 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 North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation supports activities that help meet the educational and health needs of today's society and future generations. The Foundation focuses on programs that emphasize the understanding and application of health, science and education at all academic and professional levels.*

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