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Contact:  
info@ncgskfoundation.org  
919-483-2140



**Vukoson Recognized for Lifetime Work  
With NC GlaxoSmithKline Foundation Child Health Recognition Award**

*- Jean Kesler Vukoson Championed Children and Health Departments Across the State -*

**Charlotte, NC** – Jean Kesler Vukoson, RN, brought better health care to North Carolina’s children from Manteo to Murphy. Her work championing health departments across the state as well as the children and families they serve, has been recognized with the Lifetime Achievement Recognition Award in the North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation’s 2018 Child Health Recognition Awards program.

Vukoson spent her career in nursing, beginning with direct patient care and moving on to the public health field in the late 1990s. As a state child health nurse consultant for the last decade of her career, she helped health departments serve as medical homes for children and youth with special health care needs and to serve as resources for children in foster care. She forged relationships between health departments, Community Care of N.C. networks, school nurses and social services providers to address obesity, asthma and mental health concerns for patients and communities. She also provided mentoring and education to hundreds of enhanced role child health nurses and nurses in health departments.

**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 working 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 **Lifetime Achievement Award** is given to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to improving children’s health services through a series of achievements over a period of time.

Other recipients of the 2018 Child Health Recognition Awards are:

**Individual Recognition**

- Mindy Turner, DDS; Pediatric Dentist, Stanly County Dental Clinic

**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 North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline 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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