

2008 Public Health Community Award



2008 Award - *Dr. Remy Eussen*

When Dr. Remy Eussen arrived in Clark County ten years ago, access to dental care for young children covered by Medicaid was virtually non-existent. Dr. Eussen immediately began providing dental treatment to this underserved population, and currently 80 percent of his patients are children covered by Medicaid. He has been a leader in gaining community support for the Access to Baby and Child Dentistry (ABCD) program and has trained more than 60 dentists in techniques necessary for working with young children in the treatment and prevention of dental diseases. In addition to Clark County, he has helped organize the ABCD program in Cowlitz, Klickitat and Skamania counties. He is a regular volunteer at the Children's Dental Health Day and makes himself available at Head Start locations to provide dental exams. He is currently serving as an advisor in the development of an ABCD look-alike program for people 55 years and older who are covered by Medicaid. Dr. Eussen has been instrumental in creating a partnership between public health and community providers to provide access to oral health care to a marginalized population. His work has gone a long way to narrow the gap in dental health equity in our community.

Special Recognition

Clark College Healthy Penguin Nation: Campuswide program promoting good health through comprehensive strategies addressing the multiple dimensions of wellness. Some examples include tracking healthy activity choices using *Penguin Points* and healthy food choice identification by the *Healthy Penguin* logo.

Clark Public Utilities Water Services: Communitywide stewardship programs that protect water quality and provide watershed restoration. Some examples are restoring streams, enhancing fish populations and educating the community about habitat and watershed stewardship.

Dr. Desiree Hellegers: Dr. Hellegers was instrumental in developing the Center for Social and Environmental Justice at WSU-Vancouver, and has partnered with community organizations and local universities to expand the social and environmental justice conversation locally, nationally and globally.

Community Choices' Walking: All Seasons All Reasons campaign: Communitywide health promotion and disease prevention multi-media campaign providing resources for families, community groups, and employers to create walking programs using online tools, maps, and downloadable print materials.

Honorable Mention

AWARE, Inc: Youth educators working to promote health and prevent disease by providing information to middle school and high school students about developing character, healthy relationships, and goal-setting to make informed decisions for a healthy lifestyle.

Teresa Norman: Ms. Norman was instrumental in developing the North Star opiate substitution clinic to treat those impacted by addiction and complex health issues. Her work has helped to narrow health disparities and improve access to care for vulnerable populations.

Nutter Corporation: A comprehensive corporate campaign that prioritizes employee health and fitness for employees, their families, and the wider community.

Rebound Orthopedics & Neurosurgery Group: Medical care providers working to expand access and delivery of health care for the community.

Rosemere Neighborhood Association: Community organization advocating for health promotion, disease prevention, and social justice through water quality advocacy and monitoring and improving neighborhood livability.

