



Rural Spotlight



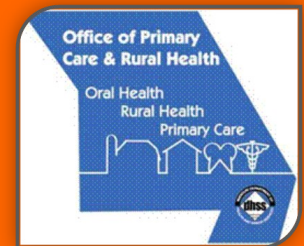
National Child Abuse Prevention Month

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse and neglect, and to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families. During the month of April and throughout the year, communities are encouraged to share child abuse and neglect prevention awareness strategies, activities and promote prevention across the country.

For more information visit the [US Department of Health and Human Services/Child Abuse Prevention website](http://www.hhs.gov/ohrp/child-abuse-prevention):



[Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services](http://www.dhss.mo.gov)



Other Observances in April

- Alcohol Awareness Month
 - National Autism Awareness Month
 - National Distracted Driving Awareness Month
 - National Donate Life Month
 - Occupational Therapy Month
 - Sexual Assault Awareness & Prevention Month
 - Sports Eye Safety Awareness Month
 - STI Awareness Month
 - Women's Eye Health & Safety Month
- 6-12 - National Public Health Week
- 7 - World Health Day
- 10 - National Youth HIV & AIDS Awareness Day
- 19-25 - National Infertility Awareness Week
- 20-24 - Every Kid Healthy™ Week
- 24-30 - World Immunization Week
- 24 - World Meningitis Day



The Missouri State Office of Rural Health (MORH) recognizes a Rural Health Champion every year who advocates for rural health issues. Nominations are generally requested during late summer and the nominees are listed on the MORH website at: (<http://www.health.mo.gov/living/families/ruralhealth/index.php>), as well the opportunity to cast your vote online. Be sure to watch for the announcement for nomination requests in the *Rural Spotlight* and other DHSS communications.

Monthly Highlight

Congratulations Are In Order!!!

Rural Health Champion Award for 2014

CONGRATULATIONS to the Administrator of the Putnam County Health Department in Unionville, MO, **Ms. Ericka Klingner**, for being voted Missouri's Rural Health Champion for 2014!

For the past seven years, Ms. Klingner has been the go to person for major changes which are benefiting the health and wellness of Putnam County; a small rural population of around 4,875 people.



Melissa VanDyne (left) with the Missouri State Office of Rural Health (MORH) presents Ms. Ericka Klingner the 2014 Rural Health Champion Award

Ericka's honest approach and extraordinary ability in writing grants has greatly improved their community. She has brought in over \$790,000.00 in grant monies used to update their city parks and Putnam County R1 School's track, trail and fitness facility. She has helped local daycare providers do match grants for new playground equipment and implemented nutrition education classes through the Putnam County Memorial Hospital, and the Senior Center Café and Resource Center. She has facilitated committees and coalitions to recruit the necessary planning networks that go into making all these projects successful.

Ericka has also pursued the 'Livable Streets' Campaign so that their school students can now walk or ride bicycles to school on safe sidewalks which were broken or nonexistent.

Ericka's hard work is bringing people together and has encouraged them to think about their health and wellness and actually do something about it. Their parks are now a beautiful safe place for children to play and people to enjoy being outdoors, getting physical activity into their day to day lives.



If you, your staff, a rural health facility or hospital in your Community, have received an award or recognition for a job well done; we would love to highlight their accomplishments in our Rural Spotlight Newsletter.

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