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Healthy SC Challenge Community Awards and Media Award Announced

Winners across South Carolina invited to join Darlington County residents at Governor's Mansion

Columbia, S.C. – May 9, 2006 – Governor Mark Sanford and First Lady Jenny Sanford announced today the winners of the 2006 Healthy SC Challenge community awards. These awards are presented to groups and organizations who have successfully worked to improve the health of their communities. In recognition for their efforts, representatives from the winning organizations are invited to the Governor's Mansion on May 18th at 2 p.m. for an open house and awards ceremony, where they will join residents from Darlington County, the winner of this year's Healthy SC Challenge.

The 2006 Healthy SC Challenge community award winners include:

Business – Sonoco, Hartsville
Community Collaboration – Greater Greenville: the City of Greenville, Healthy Greenville 2025, Greenville Walks, Greenville YMCA, Spinx Run Fest
Education – Erskine Wellness, Erskine College and Seminary
Faith-based – The AME church's Health-e-AME
Government – City of North Myrtle Beach
Healthy event – Sun City Challenge
Organizational creativity – The Black Men's Health Initiative's BAP Caps program
Smoking cessation – Palmetto Health Richland's "Quit While You're Ahead" program
Statewide effort – YMCA Shrinkdown
Youth-focused initiative – Children's Museum of the Lowcountry's Healthy Families Initiative

In addition, a special media award will be presented to Channel 2 News/Y102.5 radio, Charleston, for outstanding efforts to improve health and wellness.

Earlier this spring, groups and organizations submitted their applications for community awards to the Healthy SC Challenge. The entries were judged based on the results the programs delivered to their communities. "My thanks to every group who applied for community awards," said First Lady Jenny Sanford. "I am so grateful for their efforts to make South Carolina healthier."

"In both South Carolina and across the nation, the unfortunate trend is for people to live more sedentary lifestyles," Sanford said. "It's going to take the continued efforts of these groups and others to reverse those trends so that the Palmetto State can reap the benefits of better health. We have a long way to go, but I firmly believe that through these kinds of efforts, we will ultimately have a healthier South Carolina."

For more information on any of the above programs, please call Meghan McGuire at (803) 737-2325.

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The Healthy SC Challenge is an outcome-based, cooperative effort aimed at encouraging individuals, communities and organizations across the state to show shared responsibility in developing innovative ways to improve the health of South Carolina's citizens. For more information about the Healthy SC Challenge, please visit www.healthysc.gov, or contact Meghan McGuire at 803-737-2325.