

MEDIA RELEASE

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Tennessee Primary Care Association honors community health leaders

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- The Tennessee Primary Care Association recently recognized several community health care leaders with Awards of Excellence. The awards, named for early leaders in the statewide primary care movement, were presented at TPCA's 2014 Annual Leadership Conference.

The Caryl E. Carpenter Excellence in Community Support Award, which recognizes individual support for Community Health Center programs, was presented to Lois H. Stockton, board chair of Memphis Health Center Inc., and Evelyn Robertson Jr., board member of Hardeman County Community Health Center. Stockton has served on the board of Memphis Health Center for the past 10 years; Robertson has served Hardeman County Community Health since 1996 and has held various leadership roles.

The Logan Beasley Leadership Excellence Award, which recognizes an individual within a health center whose leadership has improved access to primary health care, was presented to **Loretta Phillips, care manager at Dayspring Family Health Center**. Phillips, who was formerly a nurse at Jellico-based Dayspring, utilizes her clinical background to help patients understand complicated medical issues, and also helps to connect them with resources throughout the community.

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The Outstanding Practitioner of the Year Award, which recognizes a clinical practitioner whose work has demonstrated outstanding leadership, community involvement and dedication to patient care, was awarded to **Elizabeth Threlkeld of Faith Family Medical Center** in Nashville. Threlkeld, a family nurse practitioner, has worked at Faith Family Medical Center since 2003 and has consistently demonstrated her dedication to patient care, leadership and community involvement.

"We are happy to honor these dedicated individuals for their commitment and care," said Kathy Wood-Dobbins, chief executive officer of TPCA. "They exemplify the hundreds of staff members and community volunteers who work together every day to help our centers improve the lives of so many."

The Tennessee Primary Care Association improves access to primary health care through leadership, advocacy, and support as the voice of Community Health Centers. TPCA's membership is comprised of more than 30 non-profit primary care clinics operating more than 200 satellite sites that provide high quality, comprehensive primary care to people across the state. Member health centers served more than 396,000 Tennesseans in 2013 and continue to see their patient numbers grow.

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About the Awards of Excellence Namesakes

The Caryl E. Carpenter Excellence in Community Support Award: Named in honor of Caryl E. Carpenter, Ph.D., this award recognizes outstanding achievement in expanding access to primary health care services. Dr. Carpenter administered rural community health centers in East Tennessee and served as the Association's first president, from 1976 to 1978. Her work with state policy makers contributed to the passage of the Primary Care Act of 1980, which improved access to care.

The Logan Beasley Leadership Excellence Award: This award is named for Logan Beasley, who, throughout his career with the U.S. Public Health Service, steadfastly worked both regionally and with individual centers to develop primary care services and to strengthen community health centers.