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Foundation for Healthy Communities Announces Recipients for 2017 Awards

At its Annual Meeting in September, the Foundation for Healthy Communities had the privilege of honoring local healthcare leaders for their innovation, leadership and commitment to improving health for New Hampshire residents.

The Foundation was honored to name Shawn LaFrance, Vice President, Population Health at Cheshire Medical Center / Dartmouth-Hitchcock Keene, as the recipient of its **2017 Innovator's Award**, in recognition of his vision, leadership and dedication to building a healthy New Hampshire through the very organization that became synonymous with his name. Joining the Foundation nearly 20 years ago and serving as its previous Executive Director since 2004, LaFrance was recognized for his efforts as a tireless advocate for improving the health of New Hampshire residents by working to create more health supportive policies and environments where people live, learn, work and play, and for playing an integral role in creating what is known today as the Foundation for Healthy Communities.

In addition, the Foundation was pleased to announce Concord Hospital as the 2017 recipient of the **Noah Lord for Patient & Family Engagement Award**, which recognizes the innovative work being done to better engage patients and families with Patient Family Advisors and Patient Family Advisory Councils to improve patient safety, quality improvement and the patient experience in a hospital system. Concord Hospital was recognized for their project titled, **Improving the Patient Experience in the Stroke Program**. This program provides the opportunity for patients, their families and staff feedback on delivery of care and in-hospital experiences, challenges or concerns with the patient care team so that they can be immediately addressed, thereby improving the quality and safety of care delivered, as well as the patient experience.



**SAVE THE
DATE**

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## NHCCC Annual Meeting

April 4, 2018

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Pictured: Concord Hospital's Stroke Leadership Team; Tanya Lord, Director, Patient & Family Engagement; Kathy Wieliczko, Patient Relations Coordinator, Concord Hospital; Tim Jones, COO, Concord Hospital; and Peter Ames, Executive Director, Foundation for Healthy Communities.

Manchester Youth PhotoVoice Project Helps to Highlight Challenges in Accessing Areas of Recreation

In an effort to enhance a local community's access to places to play and be active, the City of Manchester Parks, Recreation and Cemetery Division of DPW partnered with The Foundation for Healthy Communities and its HEAL NH program to launch the *Youth PhotoVoice Project*, one of the first PhotoVoice projects in the State to focus on youth access to recreation.

With the goal of increasing opportunities for active recreation in their communities, the *Manchester Youth PhotoVoice Project* engaged local youth to walk their routes to Sheehan-Basquill Park and highlight areas of concern that limit their ability to access the park, as well as areas that created positive feelings about their community through photos and captions that voiced their challenges in accessing the park.

"To effectively provide supportive, healthy environments where we live and play, engaging community residents to learn about the cultural, environmental, and safety factors that affect recreation and park use is an important first step," said Beth Gustafson-Wheeler, Director of Population Health at the Foundation for Healthy Communities. "Providing a space to allow the voice of children to be heard is empowering and can result in better outcomes for improving park use and physical activity."

The *Manchester PhotoVoice Project* is the first community to complete the project, where local youth ages 9-12 took photos and provided captions to the strengths and challenges they saw in accessing Sheehan-Basquill Park and Hunt Pool areas. It's one of seven communities taking part in the *PhotoVoice Project*, an initiative of HEAL NH's Active Recreation Program.

The *Youth Photovoice Project* is part of a larger initiative by the NH Healthy People Healthy Places Active Recreation Work Group to increase access to active recreation opportunities in NH's highest need communities.



Pictured above is Brianna of Manchester, who took part in the PhotoVoice Project, standing in front of the PhotoVoice Exhibition at Jupiter Hall.

To read more about the *PhotoVoice Project*, [click here](#).

Quick Links

[Foundation for
Healthy
Communities](#)

[New Hampshire
Hospital Association](#)

Foundation for Healthy Communities

Awarded \$1.2M State Contract to Launch Health Care Coalition

Health care organizations play a critical role in protecting the public's health during emergencies, preventing and reducing illnesses and deaths. To ensure a comprehensive, statewide response to residents' health needs in an emergency, the NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is establishing a Health Care Coalition to coordinate emergency response and recovery efforts by health care organizations.

Through a contract with DHHS, the Foundation for Healthy Communities will help launch the Health Care Coalition and serve as its Administrative Lead Organization.

"The Foundation is honored to have been chosen as the administrative lead organization to establish the Health Care Coalition," said Peter Ames, Executive Director of the Foundation for Healthy Communities. "This opportunity will allow us to carry forward the 15-year history of work of the New Hampshire Hospital Association in support of emergency preparedness, and create an even more comprehensive network of healthcare partners, public health agencies and emergency management officials that will enhance emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts in New Hampshire."

As the Administrative Lead Organization of the Health Care Coalition, the Foundation for Healthy Communities will coordinate efforts to strengthen New Hampshire's ability to address health concerns during an emergency.

The Foundation for Healthy Communities as administrative lead of the Health Care Coalition (HCC), will:

- Work with community health care organizations and other stakeholders to identify risks and address needs through planning and training;
- Coordinate with HCC members to share information, manage resources and coordinate strategies to deliver medical care during emergencies;
- Ensure continuity of health care service delivery during emergencies; and
- Help coordinate information and available resources so members can maintain services during a surge in the need for medical resources.

The Foundation for Healthy Communities has begun discussions with key stakeholders on the goals and objectives of the Health Care Coalition, and looks forward to sharing its progress on the development of the Coalition.

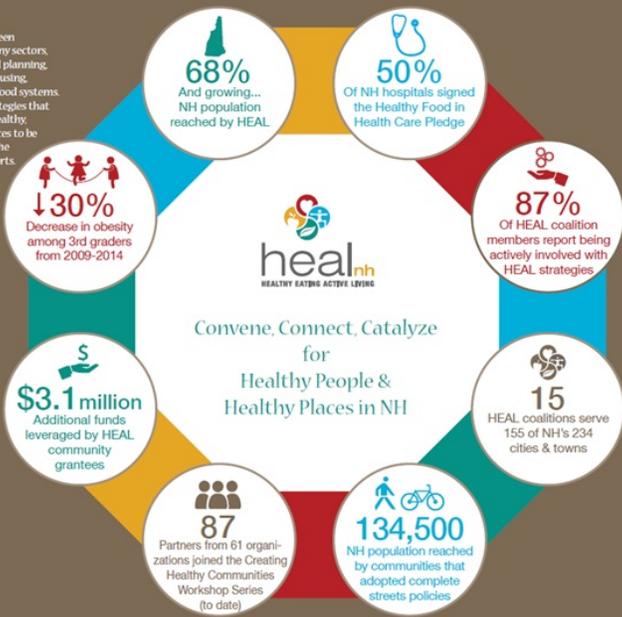
Celebrating 10 years of Healthy Eating & Active Living in New Hampshire

Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) NH was launched in 2008 with the goal that all residents have access to healthy, affordable food, and safe places to play and be active. The Foundation for Healthy Communities has been honored to serve as the HEAL Home for these many years. The HEAL statewide network has made significant strides over the past decade to create healthier people and places throughout our state.

Celebrating Our Collective Progress: 10 Years of Healthy Eating and Active Living in New Hampshire is a testament to the profound impact the HEAL network has had on the Granite State. To read the full report, click [here](#).

Impact

For over a decade, HEAL has been engaging partners across many sectors, including health, land use and planning, transportation, education, housing, economic development, and food systems. Our partners implement strategies that provide equitable access to healthy, affordable foods and safe places to be active. Here are just a few of the results of these collective efforts.



Foundation Receives Grant to Support State's Critical Access Hospitals

The Foundation for Healthy Communities was recently awarded the contract for the *Small Rural Hospital Improvement Program* (SHIP). Under the direction of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the NH Division of Public Health Services, the \$212,000 grant supports training members of the New Hampshire health care community in aspects of the Toyota Production System. The Toyota Production, or Lean Management System, equips the healthcare professional with tools and systems designed to improve the quality of patient care delivered and enhance their productivity and efficiency through continuous improvement education and hands-on implementation of best practices.

By collaborating with the New Hampshire Hospital Association and faculty from Massachusetts-based GBMP who facilitate the training, the Foundation has been able to train 84 healthcare professionals over the last two years in Lean Management principles that in turn enable them to implement best practices within their own organizations to facilitate change.

New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration Awards Funding for HPV Vaccination Project

The New Hampshire Comprehensive Cancer Collaboration (NH CCC) is providing \$7,000 in funding to the New Hampshire HPV Stakeholders Group for a pilot project to increase the rate of HPV immunization rates in the state. NH CCC member organizations participate in the stakeholders group, along with numerous other organizations. Matched funding of \$21,000 will be contributed from the HPV Stakeholders Group.

HPV vaccination rates in NH lags behind the national Healthy People 2020 goal of having at least 80% of adolescents 13-15 years old completing the vaccination series. Some types of the HPV virus can cause cervical, anogenital, head and neck, an oropharyngeal cancers. The project, titled: *Engaging Partners to Increase HPV Vaccination*, will encourage dental

providers, the most frequently visited healthcare providers, to give a strong, on-time recommendation for the HPV vaccine to patients and parents. The pilot project will be concentrated in the Nashua-area in collaboration with the Nashua Division of Public Health and Community Services. In addition, HPV vaccination educational materials will be distributed to OB/GYNs in Nashua and throughout the state. Another important part of the project is to address knowledge and misconceptions about HPV vaccination among parents.

This HPV project will directly support the NH CCC to advance the *2015-2020 NH Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan* and its mission of reducing the burden of cancer, the leading cause of death in New Hampshire.

Applications are due by December 29th - for more information or to download the application, [click here](#).



***From all of us at the
Foundation for Healthy Communities
we wish you a wonderful holiday season!***

