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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Health District Recognizes Public Health Heroes

(Las Vegas, Nev. – April 5, 2000) – This week marks the national celebration of Public Health Week, and to commemorate the event the Clark County Health District is presenting deserving recipients with “Hero Awards” in recognition of their contributions to the health and well-being of the community.

The recipients include Robert Ansara, a member of the Nevada Restaurant Association and co-owner of Ricardo’s Mexican Restaurants, Mary Hall a volunteer for the Clark County Health District’s Baby Find Program and Louise Helton of Citizens for Healthy Smiles.

This year a new subset of the Hero Award, known as the Clean Air Recognition Effort (CARE) award was implemented. This award is being presented to five companies in recognition of their voluntary efforts to positively affect air quality. These companies are Airway Rock Products, Hanson Aggregates, Las Vegas Paving, Nevada Ready Mix and Sunrise Colony Company.

An awards presentation will be held at the Clark County Health District’s Clemens Room, located at 625 Shadow Lane, at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, April 7, 2000.

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Public Health Hero Award Recipients

Robert Ansara Ricardo's

As a member of the Nevada Restaurant Association, and co-owner and General Manager of Ricardo's Mexican Restaurants, Ansara is often called upon by the Clark County Health District's (CCHD) Environmental Health Division to give input on proposed regulations and procedures. He has willingly volunteered his time and the use of his facilities when environmental health representatives conduct inspections accompanied by the media. In 1999, CCHD's Health Education Department initiated a "Smoke Free Restaurant Campaign," and Ansara was an inaugural participant in this trend setting promotion in Clark County.

Mary Hall Baby Find, M.A.S.H Village

Mary Hall has overcome her own personal adversities to provide volunteer services to the Baby Find Program at M.A.S.H. Village. Hall is an amputee who rides the bus to and from M.A.S.H. Village every day to staff the Baby Find Outreach Center. The Baby Find Program applies an innovative approach to reducing infant mortality and low birth weight rates in high-risk areas of Las Vegas. The program uses resource mothers as mentors for women who are at-risk or not accessing prenatal care. Resource mothers come from backgrounds similar to the young women they mentor and provide support and guidance before and after they give birth.

As a resource mother, Hall helps to distribute free formula, diapers, baby wipes, prenatal vitamins, blankets, clothing, and many other items to homeless mothers and infants. Hall also mentors six young mothers-to-be who fall between the ages of 13 – 16.

Louise Helton Citizens for Healthy Smiles (formerly Concerned Citizens for Fluoridation)

Tooth decay is a major public health problem, affecting children in Clark County. Adding fluoride to the drinking water is an effective and safe means of reducing the number of dental caries among these children. Louise Helton led the drive to pass legislation, enabling Clark County to add fluoride to drinking water on March 1, 2000. Helton is now spearheading the drive to pass the referendum that will be brought before the voters in November to determine whether the fluoridation will continue. She has worked tirelessly to promote proper dental health for adolescents in Clark County.

(more)

Clean Air Recognition Effort (CARE) Award Recipients

Airway Rock Products

Airway Rock Products is the operator of a large sand and gravel processing facility. In 1998 they were using conventional techniques such as street sweeping to remove tracked-out soil from the street, but were encountering difficulties keeping the street clean due to the high volume of truck traffic through their facility. In order to achieve compliance with Air Quality Regulations the company began exploring alternate solutions for preventing track-out. In 1999 Airway Rock Products purchased a wheel-washing device, at a cost in excess of \$100,000. This control measure was adopted voluntarily, and exceeds the specifications of their operating permit. Airway's adoption of this technology has set a precedent for state-of-the-art prevention of tracked-out soil.

Hanson Aggregates Las Vegas Paving Corporation Nevada Ready Mix

These three companies volunteered to embark on a project that demonstrates the positive affects of cleaner burning diesel fuel and retrofitting catalytic converters on some of their diesel powered trucks. Retrofitting the catalytic converters is estimated to reduce carbon monoxide emissions by 80 percent, while the fuel is comparable to cleaner burning California Air Resource Board (CARB) diesel, but less expensive. Currently, diesel powered vehicles are not required to use cleaner burning fuel. Hanson Aggregates, Las Vegas Paving and Nevada Ready Mix volunteered to do an in-depth study to see if vehicles powered by this fuel get the same gas mileage, horsepower, etc., as those powered by conventional diesel. This includes doing an analysis on fuel consumption and gathering feedback from drivers. Eventually this fuel will be also be tested on heavy machinery.

Sunrise Colony Company

Sunrise Colony Company is actively developing two very large projects in the Las Vegas Valley. Their Red Rock Country Club and Sienna projects have proceeded with careful planning and thoughtful attention to detail in preventing fugitive dust from their construction projects. The company has been an active participant in dust control regulation workshops and their efforts to meet the spirit and intent of the Air Quality regulations have been exceptional. The cooperative spirit of the company and the professional manner of Sunrise Colony personnel with regards to fugitive dust control efforts make this company a role model in their industry.

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