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St. Paul Public Housing Agency Named “Community Partner of the Year” by Metro State University

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Information about the PHA is also posted at: www.stpha.org

On Thursday, May 10th Metropolitan State University (MSU) will honor the St. Paul Public Housing Agency (PHA) as its “Community Partner of the Year”. The award recognizes an ongoing partnership between the PHA and MSU’s College of Nursing and Health Sciences that improves public housing residents’ health and well-being and gives student nurses real-life experience providing health care in a community setting.

The award will be presented during Metropolitan State University Foundation’s “Recognizing Excellence” event, which is an annual celebration “designed to recognize individuals and organizations who have supported or provided their talents to Metropolitan State University and to the greater community.” By recognizing the accomplishments of these community leaders, MSU also hopes to motivate others to become future leaders. The intent of the awards is to showcase the work of these recipients and how they strive for excellence, show great pride and achievement in their work with the university and therefore illuminate a pathway for others to follow. The event also is punctuated by the State of the University address from University President Sue Hammersmith.

MSU’s “Community Partner of the Year” award is given to an organization that works closely with the university in community endeavors or university special projects. MSU’s Department of Nursing staff said the student nurse practicum program could not be successful without the support of the PHA leadership and the staff who work at the 7 hi-rises and Roosevelt Homes where the student nurses see residents.

The PHA's role in the partnership was spearheaded by the Human Service Coordinators (Cheryl Hawley, Barbara Williams, Beth Forest, Patti Minehan, Deb Goulet and Stephanie Long) at the PHA.

Ms. Hawley said, "This has been a wonderful collaboration with MSU's Department of Nursing and Health Sciences. PHA residents receive health services improving their quality of life. The MSU students, under the guidance of skilled faculty supervisors, provide health education services in a community based setting. The students bring skills, expertise, and knowledge and the residents bring their wisdom and life experiences. Everyone benefits!"

Ms. Forest said, "The partnership gives students the opportunity to hone their nursing skills with people who need the in-home health care visit. The MSU faculty and PHA staff guide the knowledgeable and enthusiastic students in providing free foot care and mini health clinics to our very appreciative residents!"

Residents are so grateful to receive these services right in the building where they live...

We can see that some residents are managing their health better ...

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