

Community Service & Corporate Responsibility Award 2012 Nominees

Capital Area District Libraries

The 13 Capital Area District Libraries (CADL) throughout Ingham County offer a huge collection of print, audio-visual and electronic resources on a variety of health topics. Outreach services for people with special needs who do not have convenient access to a library are also provided. CADL is committed to using their resources to support the health of the Capital Area community and creating an environment where people with special needs and/or disabilities are treated with respect and provided with independent access to collections and services. Outreach services include the Bookmobile, Book Nooks, and Books by Mail. Checkout of materials is free to anyone with a Capital Area District Library card.

CADL provides literature racks to promote health and wellness programs in our community. In addition, CADL frequently offers programs on a variety of healthy lifestyle topics. CADL is represented in community organizations by staff members. Involvement includes the Capital Area Health Alliance's Healthy Lifestyle Committee, 4x4 Plan, and the *Choosing Health!*® movement; the Greater Lansing Homeless Resolution Network; Community Partners in Health; Downtown Lansing, Inc. The libraries also promote usage of neighboring Reuter Park with a park maintenance initiative and free concerts. CADL has been present at all of the *Choosing Health!*® rallies, demonstrating to hundreds of people the value of the health and wellness book collection available at the libraries. They are also adopting the *Choosing Health!*® logo to highlight their healthy lifestyle resources. Our communities reflect a wide variety of ages, interests, and cultures. CADL is an essential resource offering the services and information to residents to foster healthy and active living in our community.

New Freedom Care a Van (part of Clinton Area Transit System)

Thirty-five volunteers provide the means necessary to transport the frail and disabled populations of Clinton County to their medical appointments. Many of these appointments are located outside of the county borders and cannot be easily obtained with regular public transit. Family and friends are often stretched to the limit, so it is up to this team of volunteers to get these people to their much-needed medical appointments. The New Freedom program is young in its development. One year ago, the number of people helped per month was under 40. Now as the program grows so is the need growing. New Freedom is now providing well over 100 rides per month. All the facilities in the world with the best medical doctors would be useless to those needing to be serviced if they never arrived.

The volunteers provide transportation, a sense of well-being, physical support, reliable guidance, and this is all packaged in a smiling, comforting caregiver.

