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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Clark County Health District Presents “Hero Awards”

(Las Vegas, Nev. – April 5, 1999) – This week marks the national celebration of Public Health Week, and to commemorate the event the Clark County Health District presented five deserving recipients with “Hero Awards” in recognition of their contributions to the health and well-being of the community. The recipients include Dr. Elizabeth Fildes, of University Medical Center’s Smoker’s Consult Service; Richard Hardman, of the Clark County Fire Department; Van Heffner, president of the Nevada Restaurant Association and the Nevada Hotel and Motel Association; Mary Shope, a citizen of Boulder City; and Hope for Kids, a volunteer organization.

Dr. Kwalick, chief health officer for the district, began the ceremony by stating, “We are reminded this week that we owe much of our improved health to non-medical advances. Clinical medicine is credited with only five of the 30 years that have been added to life expectancy since the turn of the century. This is not to diminish the enormous strides in medical care, but rather reemphasize the importance of public health activities.”

This is the first year that Clark County Health District presented “Hero Awards” as part of their public health week celebration. Jeanne Palmer, health education manager for

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the District explains, “This week is a time for us as an organization to reflect on the importance of the services we provide to our community. At the same time we realize that we wouldn’t be as successful without the contributions of the people and organizations that partner with us to offer these services.”

Dr. Fildes was recognized as a champion in the field of tobacco use reduction and prevention. She has been an instrumental leader in establishing the first tobacco user’s help line in Nevada, a service that benefits every smoker in Nevada.

Richard Hardman has been a paramedic since 1985 and joined the Clark County Fire Department in 1990. In 1997 he assisted in the development of a public access Automated External Defibrillation (AED) program in local hotel/casinos. This program improves the response time of appropriately trained personnel and the time to early defibrillation, which increases survivability of cardiac arrest patients.

Van Heffner’s expertise within the food service industry has contributed to improving food safety for southern Nevada residents and tourists.

Mary Shope is a community advocate for air quality and other environmental issues in Southern Nevada. Her dedication to improving the environment contributes to a healthier Clark County.

Hope for Kids contributed over 1,700 hours to improve immunization rates in Clark County. To date, Hope for Kids volunteers have distributed immunization information to 15,000 families in Las Vegas during their Walk Campaign and have reached 25,000 children through the immunization call back program. Mark Stadtmiller, program director for the organization, accepted the award.

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