



Macon County
Public Health

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For Immediate Release



**NORTH CAROLINA GLAXOSMITHKLINE FOUNDATION
CELEBRATES 2025 CHILD HEALTH RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Durham, N.C., September 17, 2025 – The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation announced award recipients for its 2025 Child Health Recognition Awards program. Since 1994 the awards have honored public health professionals around the state for innovative programs that improve the health and safety of North Carolina’s children and their families.

Those honored with an award were selected by a selection committee of healthcare professionals chosen by the North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA) evaluates the nominations. A ceremony honoring award recipients and all nominees was held in Wilmington on Wednesday, Sept. 17, during NCPHA’s annual educational conference.

This year’s awards focus on programs that address evidenced-based issues of particular significance to the community being served and work in partnership with others to help improve health outcomes for children.

**North Carolina Public Health Professionals Celebrated for their Innovation and Passion to
Change Outcomes for Children!**

2025 Child Health Recognition Award Recipients:

[Macon County Public Health, Child Services](#)

Macon County Public Health's child-focused initiatives-including the Molar Roller, School--Based Telehealth, Healthy Little Learners, Healthy Little Chefs, Macon Milk, and Vision Blitz-represent a comprehensive, innovative approach to reducing health disparities among children and families in a rural Appalachian community. These programs bring dental, medical, vision, early literacy, maternal wellness, and nutrition services directly to where families live and learn, overcoming geographic and financial barriers. With strong partnerships, passionate dedicated staff, and a commitment to early intervention, the health department

empowers families and improves long-term health outcomes, serving as a model for community-driven public health excellence.

“I could not be more proud of our incredible team at Macon County Public Health. Every one of these programs was born from a simple desire to meet children and families where they are and to give them the chance at a healthier start in life. The passion, creativity, and compassion of our staff—paired with the support of our community partners—made this recognition possible. This award belongs to all of them, and most importantly, it belongs to the families we serve every day.” -Kathy McGaha, Director, Macon County Public Health

Staff from MCPH (starting second from left: Dr. Allison Smith, Melissa Setzer and Christina Stamey) receive the Child Health Recognition Award from representatives of the GlaxoSmithKline Foundation.

