



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
INDIAN STREAM HEALTH CENTER
141 Corliss Lane
Colebrook, NH 03576
603-237-8336
Contact: Shirley M. Powell
603-388-2416
July 20, 2011

**Northeast Kingdom Community Action Program Canaan Receives ISHC
Community Service Award**

The Board of Directors of Indian Stream Health Center (ISHC) is proud to announce the recipient of the health center's third annual Community Service Award. The 2011 award is being awarded to the staff at the Canaan Vermont Office of the Northeast Kingdom Community Action (NEKCA) Program at our Annual Community Meeting on Monday, August 8th at Jackson's Lodge, Canaan VT.

The Community Service Award was started in 2009 by ISHC Board of Directors to recognize the people and organizations that provide services that benefit community residents. Past recipients of the award have been The Helping Hands and The Community Meals Program, both located in Colebrook NH. This year there were many worthy non-profit organizations nominated for the award. After considerable discussion by the ISHC Community Relations Committee, it was decided to honor the Northeast Kingdom Community Action Program and thank the staff of its Canaan Office for their assistance to numerous people in need, not only in VT but also in neighboring towns in NH.

The Northeast Kingdom Community Action Program collaborates with numerous community programs including the Area Agency on Aging, Food Stamps, Weatherization, Parent Child Center, Medicaid/Dr. Dinosaur, Women, Infant and Children (WIC) Nutrition Program, Vocational Rehab, Unemployment Assistance, and Reach Up. It has an active Outreach Program which provides fuel/electrical assistance, food shelf and commodities, Farm to Family coupons, holiday meals, seed packets, housing, temporary shelter, and housing advocacy.

The NEKCA Canaan Office was nominated for this award by Ginny Petro, the ISHC Clinical Outreach Coordinator, who had the following to say about the NEKCA staff: "This office consistently assists residents of Vermont and New Hampshire with food,

clothing, shelter and utilities such as lights and fuel. They also offer assistance with applying for services in Vermont such as food stamps, Medicaid, WIC nutrition services, unemployment benefits, and vocational rehab.”

When asked for a specific example of how NEKCA has assisted ISHC patients, Ms. Petro replied: “I had a patient call to ask for food assistance after he had moved his brother and sister-in-law in with his family and he couldn’t feed them all. I contacted the NECKA office and the patient was seen quickly and assisted in an application for the VT food stamp program. The patient was also given food from the NECKA food pantry on site.”

Petro also reports that “The NECKA staff is very helpful to all people. They assist both NH and VT residents. Concern is shown and assistance is either given or the patient is connected to what is available to them. If NECKA doesn’t have the assistance the patient needs, they find a resource that is able and/or willing to help.”

ISHC encourages community residents to attend its Annual Community Meeting to celebrate the health center’s progress and to honor the staff of the NEKCA Canaan, VT Office. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 8th at Jackson’s Lodge in Canaan, VT. The event starts at 5:30pm and the speaker this year will be Professor Deborah Kinghorn from the University of New Hampshire who will share her experiences in music and dance and the positive impact it has on individuals’ health and wellness. Interested participants are asked to RSVP Gaetane Boire at 603-388-2432 by August 3rd.