



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## Henderson County Department of Public Health

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Health Department honored for programs to improve child health

**Hendersonville, NC (October 29, 2015)** – The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation recently honored the Henderson County Department of Public Health for two programs that improve the lives of North Carolina’s children.

“We are extremely proud to be recognized for these programs and the local partnerships that are of particular significance to the children in our community,” said Steve Smith, health director. “Whether promoting childhood immunizations or screening the vision of school children, public health partnerships are making a difference in the lives of Henderson County children.”

The Department of Public Health was recognized September 16 at a ceremony in Winston-Salem for the North Carolina Public Health Association’s annual meeting. The two programs recognized as nominees were:

- Henderson County Immunization Coalition—As a result of a pertussis outbreak in Western North Carolina, public health immunization nurses reached out to pediatric providers to form an immunization coalition. Through educational materials (including PSAs shown at the local movie theatre) and regular meetings, the group promoted early childhood and adolescent immunizations.
- School Health Vision Screening Program—Vision disorders and undetected vision problems in children can lead to learning difficulties, delayed development or vision loss. School nurses partnered with the Etowah Lions Club to use its technology to provide faster and more accurate screening.

The North Carolina GlaxoSmithKline Foundation created the Child Health Recognition Awards program to recognize excellence and innovation in child health care and to encourage the development of creative, effective approaches in the field of public health.

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