

## **Kudos for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services**

LITTLETON, N.H.—The kudos for Ammonoosuc Community Health Services, Inc. have been rolling in this fall.

ACHS has seen three staff members certified in the national Parents as Teachers program; has received the highest rating for its childhood immunizations program, and has been selected to receive books for children through the Cheerios Spoonfuls of Stories program.

“We are thrilled that our efforts to provide the highest quality services to our patients are being recognized by outside sources,” said ACHS Executive Director Norrine Williams. “The immunization awards are very important to ACHS, as is our commitment to certification in our home visiting program. Our staff constantly works to improve the care we deliver in our five sites.”

Two members of ACHS’s Pregnancy & Beyond program, Nicolle Slattery and Laura Morse, received Parent Educator certificates in September through the national Parent as Teachers association. ACHS’s Amy Venezia was certified as a Parents as Teachers supervisor.

Through the program, ACHS staffers visit families with young children weekly or bi-weekly to share information on child development, address parenting concerns, and encourage positive family activities. The Parents as Teachers program is based on the belief that parents are their children’s first and most influential teachers; that all children, regardless of demographic or other constraints, deserve a chance to succeed; and that the earliest years of childhood are critical for positive development and providing a good foundation for success in school and beyond.

ACHS’s Littleton and Franconia sites received the immunization certification from the state Department of Health and Human Services for maintaining high competency in administering and tracking childhood immunizations among children. The state described the ACHS immunization program as “exemplary” and noted that New Hampshire has one of the highest immunization levels in the nation.

Through the Cheerios Spoonfuls of Stories program, which selected one program in each state, ACHS patients aged birth to 4-years-old will receive free books with each monthly visit to their doctors. The books come from the nonprofit group First Book and include several age appropriate titles, including the children’s classic “Green Eggs and Ham” by Dr. Seuss.

“ACHS is honored to be the recipient for the Cheerios program,” said Ed Shanshala, COO of ACHS. “Helping families to read together and recognize the importance of having books at home has always been an integral component of many of our support services. Books can help unlock the future for children, not only because they strengthen their reading skills, but also because they start to realize the possibilities of what the world has to offer.”

Founded in 1975, Ammonoosuc Community Health Services is a nonprofit community health center offering a network of affordable primary health services. ACHS programs promote and support the well-being of individuals and families by emphasizing preventive care and encouraging active participation in one’s own health.

ACHS serves 26 New Hampshire towns in northern Grafton and Coos counties with sites in Littleton, Franconia, Whitefield, Warren, and Woodsville. Clinical teams made up of physicians, nurse practitioners, or physician assistants supported by nurses and medical assistants provide comprehensive services on a sliding fee scale to over 9,500 patients.

#####