COMMUNITY STARS

July 31, 2021

Thank you for submitting a nomination for Cynthia Mitchell.

Overview

Thank you for your 2021 Community Star Nomination. Here is a copy of the nomination for your records. If you have any questions, please reach out to NRHD Community Star Project Coordinator, Brea Corsaro at bcorsaro@powerofrural.org.

Your Information

Nancy Langman

Acting Chair, Board of Directors

Island Health Clinic

Vineyard Haven, Massachusetts

nlangman48@aol.com

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Community Star Nominee: (Organization)

Cynthia Mitchell

CEO on behalf of all Staff

Island Health Clinic

Edgartown, Massachusetts

cmitchell@ihimv.org

5089399358

COMMUNITY STARS

Which best describes the organization your nominee is associated with?

Certified Rural Health Clinic

Please describe your connection to the individual or organization you are nominating.

Acting Chair Board of Directors, formerly Vice Chair for 5 years

Please explain the individual's or organization's connection to or interaction with their State Office of Rural Health.

The CEO maintains contact with the MA state office of rural health. The staff visit the island periodically to check in with the clinic and the hospital. The clinic is on the weekly email list offering information on funding opportunities. The Acting Chair of the BOD is a former member of the New England Rural Health Board, and currently serves on The Massachusetts Advisory Council for Public Health and is former appointee to the Governors work force development task force.

The Community Star Recognition Program is designed to honor those whose contributions are making a difference in rural through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication. What do you believe to be your nominee's "star" qualities? Provide examples of how your nominee demonstrates these qualities in their work and service.

The Island Health Clinic is a rapidly growing and rapidly responding medical care facility serving the uninsured and under insured population on the rural island of Martha's Vineyard. There rapid response to the challenges of COVID have been nothing short of heroic. They rapidly set up a complex testing system all on island in collaboration with the testing company. They

continued to offer services, some remotely and others on site. They build a coordinated public health team across the six towns, working together to keep the public safe and healthy. Despite the demands of COVID, programs for substance abuse treatment and recovery continued to develop and expand. The CEO continued to build contractual and coordinated relationships with the hospital, laboratories and the mental health center. In addition to the huge efforts that are ongoing, the clinic is now developing dental services for the many underserved children and adults. The staff work tirelessly on the clinics mission. Leadership provides strong support and recognition for the staff and teamwork rules. the success of the Island Health Clinic is due to collaboration within the organization and the community, education of staff particularly as we faced Covid Issues, excellent communication within the organization as well as with the community and the board, and INNOVATION in all that we do.

The 2021 Community Star Selection Committee will review and evaluate nominations, making recommendations for which stories to include in this year's book and other NRHD activities based on the following merits. Please review these and select all that apply to your nominee.

Cultivates a vital, innovative rural health landscape and infrastructure. , Develops leadership capacity to grow rural population health and health equity. , Builds capacity for rural data-driven program planning and decision making. , Contributes to rural health innovation, education, collaboration, and communication.

Describe in as much detail as possible, examples of your nominee's work and accomplishments that correspond with your selections to the question above.

On an island with a history of every town doing its own thing, the Island Health Clinic has contracted to centrally provide public health services to all towns. With the support of the BOD, The Island Health Clinic has expanded

leadership capacity with a focus on succession planning. The Island Health Clinic is on of seven organizations that work with an umbrella organization for purposes of billing, and collaboration around all issues that arise in the complex health arena. Covid 19 brought new issues to all with some unique Island challenges. A rapid response to developing broad testing services on island was key to controlling the spread and getting people to treatment rapidly. Our critical access hospital was grateful to Island Health for taking the lead in this area.

There is nothing that Island Health has been asked to do that they don't rapidly embrace and provide timely to the community.

I can confirm that the individual or organization is making a difference in rural through collaboration, education, innovation, and communication, and is located, working, or volunteering in a designated rural area.

Yes

I can confirm that I have notified the nominee of their nomination, and the nomination will be accepted.

Yes

How did you learn about the 2021 Community Star Recognition Program?

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