



St. Mary's County Health Department

NEWS RELEASE

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HEALTH DEPARTMENT TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM NAMED OUTSTANDING RURAL HEALTH PROGRAM

LEONARDTOWN, MD (November 19, 2007) – The Rural Maryland Council, an independent state agency recognizing the unique concerns of rural Maryland, presented St. Mary's County Health Department's Medical Transportation Program the Outstanding Rural Health Program Award at its 2007 Maryland Rural Summit in Solomons Island . Health Department staff gathered for a reception November 19 to honor program drivers and office staff, all key players in the program's success.

The Rural Impact Awards have been given out every year for the last ten years to recognize innovative and committed leadership in Maryland's rural communities whose residents face a unique combination of factors which create disparities in health care. St. Mary's Medical Transportation Program was recognized for helping to solve the disparity experienced by those who do not have adequate transportation options to get to their medical appointments. Last year, health department drivers transported 1,241 patients to and from their appointments, logging 206, 534 total miles.

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Photo caption: St. Mary's County Health Department's Medical Transportation Program team (back row) L to R Cindy Spalding, administrative officer; Harry Nelson, Michael Esch, Al Richards, Alan Scott, and George Goodwin, drivers; (front row) L to R Patti Whorl, office supervisor; Janet Williams, office services clerk; Cheryl Burton and Helen Goodwin, drivers; and Kim Fenwick, office services clerk.