

## Jefferson County Public Health Hero Award Winners

Public Health Hero awards are given out every year as a way to recognize those who make a difference in the health and well-being of our community

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### Public Health Heroes 2022 Public Health is Where You Are

Every Year, absent a pandemic, Public Health Week is celebrated nationally and, locally, Jefferson County Heroes are nominated by the public.

This year, making up for two years without awards, we are enlarging our class of awardees, and the Jefferson County Board of Health is honored to present the Public Health Heroes Award to the following individuals and groups:

- **Christie Boyd**, art teacher at Blue Heron School, uses art as mental health support for her students. She has taken on a significant number of tasks that are reaching students who are often marginalized or ignored by society, BIPOC and LGBTQ, and leads equity training for the school district staff.
- **David Codier RN**, though new to the area, hit the ground running and facilitated all the clinics at Jefferson Healthcare as well as separate clinics through the Dept of Public Health from winter 2021 to the present.
- **The Medics and EMTs at the East Jefferson Fire Rescue**, providing residents with reliable and compassionate emergency services throughout the pandemic despite the immense challenges posed by COVID-19.
- **Food Bank Farm and Gardens aka FoodBank Growers**, a network of organic farms providing fresh produce to four local food banks to forward their belief that fresh, organic produce contributes to healthier communities.
- **Sarah Grossman**, a physical therapist working in the Chimacum School District, saw a need for a playground suitable for special needs children and founded *JUMP!* (Jefferson Universal Movement Playground) to raise funds and create a space where all families can come and have their children experience challenging and stimulating play on an accessible, safe and fun playground.
- **KPTZ**, our local radio station, provided steady and strong support throughout the pandemic, getting the word out about COVID-19 and educating the public, including providing a forum for the public's questions to health officer Dr. Allison Berry and airing interviews with public health experts.

- **Grace Love** spearheaded the organization of the county's first *Juneteenth* celebration, and subsequently founded the non-profit Nadine's House to provide artists with access to services, resources, and stability, enabling them to overcome the financial hurdles that often prevent artists from pursuing their crafts.
- **Lisa McKenzie** has served the community as a public health nurse for thirty years. She has led the communicable disease team through the stresses of the COVID-19 pandemic. She has been instrumental in training up a new generation of nurses in the department, and her leadership, teaching, and the example she has provided to other nurses will continue to benefit the public for years to come.
- **Jim Moffitt** formed a COVID-19 Task Group as part of the **Port Ludlow Village Council's** Health & Wellness committee, and created a network of alliances with county agencies to enable an open and easy flow of information between the county agencies and the community that significantly raised pandemic awareness among residents.
- **Logan Stegner**, as physical education teacher and assistant coach at Port Townsend High School, transformed the phys ed program from standard fare to a program of inclusion and enjoyment that focuses on both physical and mental health and has expanded activities to attract a more diverse group of students.

The awards will be presented at the monthly meeting of the Jefferson County Board of Health, held at 2:30 p.m. on Thursday, June 16<sup>th</sup>, place to be determined.