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**Virginia Health Care Foundation and PhRMA collaborate to provide  
\$1 billion in free medication to uninsured Virginians  
-2011 *Heroes in Health Care Awards* recognize milestone achievement of VHCF's  
Pharmacy Connection program-**

RICHMOND, Virginia – Governor Bob McDonnell will join key members of the General Assembly, along with major business and civic leaders from across Virginia, in presenting this year's *Heroes in Health Care Awards* on Tuesday, June 14. These prestigious awards, sponsored by the Virginia Health Care Foundation, celebrate the achievements of those individuals and organizations throughout the Commonwealth who help provide essential health care services to the people in their communities most in need of these critical medications and treatment, namely those without adequate insurance coverage.

**PhRMA** (Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America) will be honored with the **You "Rx"ceptional Award** for its work with The Pharmacy Connection, which was started by VHCF. PhRMA, acting through its partner pharmaceutical companies, has been filling orders for free medicines via The Pharmacy Connection since 1999. This software program helps healthcare providers from around Virginia match uninsured patients with the free medications that are such a vital part of treating their chronic illnesses. Through The Pharmacy Connection, PhRMA has been able to provide thousands of needy Virginians with **\$1,000,000,000** worth of free medicine.

This year's awards recipients will be recognized by Governor McDonnell and the Virginia Health Care Foundation in a ceremony at the Library of Virginia beginning at 1:00 p.m., with a reception immediately following the program at 2:30 p.m. All of the winners were nominated by their peers and have been selected from among numerous nominees by a panel of independent judges.

A complete list of this year's winners follows:

***Unsung Hero Awards*** – Presented each year to a winner in each of six categories to recognize Virginians who have made a tremendous impact in their communities.

- Volunteer: **Connie White, RPh** (Chesapeake); Chesapeake Care Clinic
- Teamwork: **Project CARE** (Greater Peninsula Area—Gloucester, Hampton, James City, Mathews, Middlesex, Essex, Newport News, Poquoson, Williamsburg, York)
- Physician: **Denise L. Borden, M.D.** (Richmond); VCU Ambulatory Care Center Primary Care Clinic
- Employee: **Yesenia “Jessie” Gonzalez, RN** (Alexandria); Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services, Inc. (ANHSI)
- Donor: **George N. McMath** (Eastern Shore); Eastern Shore Rural Health System’s Onley Community Health Center
- Child Health Champion: **Denise Parker** (Hampton Roads); STOP organization’s Project Connect

Each Unsung Hero will be honored with a \$2,000 contribution from the Virginia Association of Health Plans to the local health care project with which he or she is involved.

**You “Rx”ceptional Award** - This award is presented annually to a local Medication Assistance Caseworker who has gone beyond the call of duty to help patients obtain free medicines from the brandname pharmaceutical companies’ Patient Assistance Programs, and to a pharmaceutical company which has made a significant impact helping uninsured Virginians. Along with **PhRMA**, this year **Joy C. McDaniel, CPhT** from Nelson County also will be honored for getting effective results and dealing warmly with patients in a 100-mile radius at over 80 practices.

**NETworthy Award** – Senator Edd Houck will present this award to **Stephen A. Horan, PhD** from Richmond for his tireless efforts in elevating both the care provided by and the professionalism of Virginia’s health care safety net organizations through his work to bring them tools to improve, measure and report success.

**The Wells Fargo Achievement Award** – The **Rescue Mission of Roanoke** will receive this award, which is presented each year to a former VHCF grantee that demonstrates growth, sustainable business practices, and an entrepreneurial spirit. A \$10,000 cash award from the Wells Fargo Foundation will accompany this award.

**Charles L. Reed Memorial Award** – This award is presented annually to a friend of VHCF who has significantly enhanced the Foundation’s ability to fulfill its mission of increasing access to primary care for Virginia’s uninsured and medically underserved. Kaiser Permanente will be recognized.

The Library of Virginia (<http://www.lva.virginia.gov/>) is located at 800 East Broad Street in downtown Richmond. The awards ceremony will take place in the auditorium. The

Library of Virginia offers limited free parking in its parking garage, with entrances on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Streets. Information on other parking options can be found at <http://www.lva.virginia.gov/about/alternateparking.pdf>.

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***Heroes in Health Care*** is a celebration held annually by the Virginia Health Care Foundation to recognize the extraordinary work of its Unsung Heroes, its supporters, and others whose dedication has helped to further VHCF's mission of increasing access to primary health care for uninsured and medically underserved Virginians. The event is typically attended by 300 individuals, including the Governor of Virginia, legislators, government officials, business and community leaders, and health professionals.

The **Virginia Health Care Foundation** is a non-profit public/private partnership dedicated to increasing access to primary health care for uninsured and medically underserved Virginians by strengthening and growing Virginia's health care safety net. The Foundation was initiated by the General Assembly and the Joint Commission on Health Care in 1992. Since its inception, it has funded more than 336 community-based initiatives across the Commonwealth, and its programs and partnerships have touched the lives of more than 600,000 uninsured Virginians. For more information on VHCF and its programs, please visit [www.vhcf.org](http://www.vhcf.org), or call (804) 828-5804.

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