COMMUNITY HEALTH PARTNERSHIP OF THE HEIGHTS IN NEW YORK CITY RECEIVES 11TH ANNUAL CCPH AWARD

April 23, 2012 – Community-Campus Partnerships for Health (CCPH) is delighted to announce the Community Health Partnerships of the Heights in New York City as the recipient of the 11th Annual CCPH Award. The award highlights the power and potential of partnerships between communities and academic institutions as a strategy for social justice. It honors community-campus partnerships that are striving to achieve the systems and policy changes needed to overcome the root causes of health, social, environmental and economic inequalities.

Selected from over 100 nominations, Community Health Partnership of the Heights represents a partnership between the Division of Child and Adolescent Health at Columbia University, the Ambulatory Care Network of New York Presbyterian Hospital, and the community of Washington Heights and Inwood in New York City. Washington Heights and Inwood are home to a predominantly Latino community of approximately 270,000 residents, in which over half are foreign-born, one in four households is linguistically isolated, and one in three families live below the poverty level. Despite these circumstances, Washington Heights and Inwood are vibrant neighborhoods supported by community-based organizations that are committed to improving the health and well-being of local residents. The overall aim of the partnership is to leverage medical center and community resources to reduce child-related health disparities through innovative pediatric training programs, public health initiatives and research. Since the partnership’s formation in 1995, it has reached thousands of community residents through a wide range of initiatives, and all partners are involved in their development, implementation, evaluation and sustainability.

Award reviewer Gail Newton, Director of Community Health Partnerships at the Center for Community Health at the University of Rochester Medical Center in Rochester, NY, presented the award at the closing session of CCPH’s 15th Anniversary Conference in Houston, TX. Accepting the award on behalf of the partnership were Milagros Batista, Director of Family and Health Services at Alianza Dominicana and community liaison for the partnership; Patricia Peretz, Manager of Community Health and Evaluation at the Ambulatory Care Network of New York Presbyterian Hospital; and Dodi Meyer, Director of Community Pediatrics in the Division of Child and Adolescent Health at the Columbia University Medical Center (see next page for photo).

In her remarks presenting the award, Ms. Newton noted that “by leveraging community and institutional resources, Community Health Partnership of the Heights has contributed to such critical outcomes as decreased asthma attacks, decreased emergency and hospital visits, and fewer missed school days. A common sense of purpose, a commitment to the community, a passion for the work that needs to be done, a desire to develop stable, long-standing partnerships, and a personal connection both at the leadership and grassroots level have been key to their success.” In the words of one reviewer, she shared, “The partnership has endured for over 16 years, involved an impressive array of community partners, tackled an equally impressive array of important issues, and consistently been able to produce results.” Quoting another reviewer, “This 16 year partnership exemplifies CCPH’s Principles of Partnership.”

Also announced at the conference were two partnerships that received honorable mentions: the Sage Capital Region Veterans Partnerships for Health in Troy, NY and the Temple Health Connection in Philadelphia, PA.

For more information about the 2012 CCPH award winner and honorable mentions, visit http://bit.ly/kdNesg

Please email questions and inquiries to programs@ccph.info
Nomination guidelines for the 2013 CCPH Award will be posted online at http://ccph.info by October 1, 2012 with a deadline of February 1, 2013. Nominations in English are accepted from any country or nation. Partnerships may nominate themselves and need not be members of CCPH.

Community-Campus Partnerships for Health promotes health equity and social justice through partnerships between communities and academic institutions that focus on changing the conditions and environments in which people live, work and play. CCPH’s strategic goals are to:

- Mobilize the knowledge, wisdom and experience in communities and in academic institutions to solve pressing health, social, environmental and economic challenges
- Build the capacity of communities and academic institutions to engage each other in partnerships that balance power, share resources, and work towards systems change
- Ensure that community-driven social change is central to the work of community-academic partnerships

CCPH members – a diverse group of over 2,000 individuals affiliated with community organizations, colleges and universities, health care delivery systems, student service organizations, foundations and government – are advancing these goals in their work on a daily basis through community-based participatory research, service-learning and other partnership approaches. An international non-governmental organization, CCPH pursues its mission and supports its members through knowledge mobilization, training and technical assistance, research and evaluation, policy development and advocacy, and coalition building. “What ties us together is our commitment to social justice and our passion for the power of partnerships to transform communities and academe.” Learn more about the organization, and become a member, at http://ccph.info

From left: Sarena Seifer, CCPH Executive Director; Gail Newton, CCPH Award Reviewer, University of Rochester Medical Center; Milagros Batista, Alianza Dominicana; Dodi Meyer, Columbia University Medical Center; Patricia Peretz, New York Presbyterian Hospital; and CCPH board chair Cynthia (Cee) Boyd, University of Illinois at Chicago. Photograph taken by past CCPH board chair Chuck Conner, http://chuckconner.com