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May 15, 2009

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### **CLARE LEMKE NAMED MONTANA WOMAN OF ACHIEVEMENT 2009**

Clare Lemke, RN, Coordinator of the Park County Tobacco Use Prevention Program, has been selected as the Montana Woman of Achievement for 2009 by the Montana Business and Professional Women's Association (BPW). The award is given in recognition to a candidate who is a demonstrated leader, has fostered positive change in her community, and has been a role model for women.

The award was presented at the Montana BPW convention in Bozeman on April 25 by Joyce Hrouda, the Woman of Achievement Chair for the Montana BPW. According to Ms. Hrouda, Clare received the award "because of her total involvement as a community leader both as an advocate for healthy living issues and being personally involved with community development and improvement, providing education and training of women and girls, and her concern and actions for the less fortunate around the world."

Clare is a 20-year employee of Livingston Health Care working in various patient care and education positions. In her current role, she strives to minimize the toll of tobacco by working with healthcare providers, schools, and businesses. She has brought a spirit of cooperation to the community and has helped to create smoke free work places, tobacco free play areas in parks, and tobacco free school campuses. In addition, as coordinator of the Montana Tobacco Free Medical Campus Project, she is responsible for helping create tobacco free environments in hospitals and medical facilities. Seventeen hospitals in Montana have transitioned to a tobacco free campus, and 10 additional facilities will join them in 2009.

Committed to her community, Clare also volunteers her time in a variety of capacities. She is involved with planning and fundraising for the Northside Park in Livingston, she creates and donates quilts to women with breast cancer and an orphanage in Nigeria, and she coordinated a quilted art display on view at the Tri-County Network Against Domestic & Sexual Violence that pays tribute to women.

"I am honored to receive this recognition," said Clare. "I am a firm believer that through our words and actions, we can have a positive impact in the lives of others. When people work together to improve their community, everyone benefits."

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