

NEWS RELEASE
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Public Library/Public Health Partnership Award presented

(Lawrence, KS) – The partnership between the Lawrence Public Library, the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department and the coalition, Together Prepared, was recognized recently with an award from the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region.

The 2010 Outstanding Public Library/Public Health Partnership Award is presented to public libraries that have had a successful library/public health partnership involving health information. Recipients receive a \$200 cash award.

The Lawrence Public Library and Together Prepared partnership began in 2009. Both support each other in the role of ensuring that Lawrence and Douglas County residents are prepared for disasters through training and education.

The library, with 62 computer workstations, maintains a public resource center for information on a variety of health topics. The library also provides information on local health and wellness programs, services for the elderly and hosts numerous free programs on health issues. Two H1N1 clinics were held at the library earlier this year, where a total of 112 people were vaccinated.

Through its collaboration with Together Prepared, the library has formed partnerships with 13 social service, non-profit and governmental agencies that provide services to vulnerable populations. These agencies continue to work to increase their clients' knowledge of health and emergency preparedness information.

“We are so proud the library received this award,” said Kim Ens, Health Department Preparedness Coordinator and the library’s nominator. “We’re looking forward to working with the library on other ways Together Prepared can engage the community.”