

**NEWS RELEASE**  
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## **Public invited to honor Douglas County Health Champions Linda Cottin and Marilyn Hull during April 8 breakfast**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department will recognize Linda Cottin and Marilyn Hull as the 2016 Douglas County Health Champions during a community breakfast from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. April 8 at the Community Health Facility, 200 Maine St. The event is open to the public and is part of the Health Department’s celebration of National Public Health Week. The program begins at 8 a.m.

Director Dan Partridge said Cottin and Hull are being honored for their significant efforts to encourage and promote health in the community. “They have spent countless hours championing healthy eating and active living in our community and they’ve touched thousands of lives. We hope residents will join us in thanking them for their impressive contributions.”

### **About the honorees:**

**Linda Cottin** — In 2008, Linda Cottin started a weekly farmers market at her family owned hardware store Cottin’s Hardware, 1832 Massachusetts St. She continues to coordinate the market, which consists of local vendors selling goods, produce and hot food. She played an instrumental role in the implementation of Market Match, a local program designed to make healthy foods at farmers markets more accessible and affordable to residents participating in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), commonly called food stamps. In 2010, Linda also helped implement a farm-to-school lunch program at Cordley Elementary School. In its inaugural year, the program provided a local meal to more than 350 students. Cottin also has helped establish several school garden programs, including the one at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School. She continues to raise money and organize volunteers for these programs.

**Marilyn Hull** — Since 2004, Marilyn Hull has been program and communications officer at the Douglas County Community Foundation. She worked at the University of Kansas and Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center prior to joining the foundation. In 2009, she co-founded LiveWell Lawrence, a coalition that has grown from fewer than 15 members to more than 150. She served as the first chair of the coalition, and since then, has served the coalition in a variety of capacities. She currently is chair-elect of the coalition’s Healthy Built Environment work group. More than \$2 million in grant funding has flowed into Douglas County to support the work of the coalition, which promotes healthy eating, active living and tobacco-free lifestyles. In 2015, Hull was selected by the Lawrence City Commission to chair a 10-member Lawrence Pedestrian-Bike Issues Task Force. The task force has prepared a report that encourages development of pedestrian and bike infrastructure.

Additionally, the Health Department will recognize the leadership team for the Douglas County Medical Reserve Corps, which was established in 2003. They are: Ingrid Hartman, Phil Hauptman, Paula Hladky and Willard Epling.