

THE DOROTHY RIDER POOL

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For Immediate Release

Pool Trust Recipient of 2009 NALBOH President's Award

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Allentown, PA (June 30, 2009) – The Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust has been named the recipient of The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) 2009 President's Award. The award honors outstanding contributions to the field of public health.

“We selected the Pool Trust as the recipient of our 2009 President's Award because of the vision and leadership they have provided to facilitate the establishment of Pennsylvania's first regional board of health and health department,” states Sharon Hampson, president of NALBOH. “Their work has led to new partnerships between and among local governmental entities, community hospitals, businesses, civic organizations, and public health advocates on behalf of public health.”

Over the past ten years, the Pool Trust has enabled feasibility studies, needs assessments, community dialogue, fiscal projections, and policy analyses that have led to the development of an innovative public health model and key state and county legislation that has established Pennsylvania's first regional Board of Health. The Board is in the process of writing the health code and population health plan that would result in the regional public health department.

“NALBOH recognizes the unique role this foundation has played,” says Hampson. “The Pool Trust has been the catalyst in an effort that will have a demonstrable impact on the health of the citizens of the Lehigh Valley.”

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Add One – Pool Health Care Trust

The Pool Trust has partnered with the Two Rivers Health & Wellness Foundation to award a combined \$1 million grant to the Lehigh Valley Board of Health to assist with start-up costs. The grant comes at a time when local government faces great fiscal challenges and allows elected officials to move ahead with this project using no public funds.

“We’re honored to accept this award on behalf of our strategic partners and colleagues, including Lehigh Valley Health Network and all the fine health, human service, government, and social agencies that have worked so diligently to improve the health of the people we serve,” says Edward F. Meehan, Executive Director of the Pool Trust. “We are grateful that NALBOH points to the Lehigh Valley as an exemplary region where all sectors work cooperatively for the common good.”

NALBOH’s mission is to prepare and strengthen boards of health, empowering them to promote and protect the health of their communities through education, training, and technical assistance.

The Dorothy Rider Pool Health Care Trust was founded in 1976 by the estate of Leonard Parker Pool and named for his wife, Dorothy Rider Pool. The Trust’s mission is to serve as a resource that enables Lehigh Valley Health Network to be a superior regional hospital and improve the health of the citizens of the region it serves. The Trust’s grantmaking, approximately \$20 million over the past five years and \$101 million since its inception, has provided resources to LVHN to support clinical innovation; medical, nursing, and allied health professions education; health services research; and programs to improve community health. Its shared goal with LVHN is to have a dramatic, demonstrable, and sustained positive impact on the health of the citizens of the Lehigh Valley.

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