



## *Monday Memo – December 14, 2015*

### **Holiday Giving**

The two departmental community service projects that are conducted each year during the holidays were both, once again, great successes and both hit numbers that were our highest ever!!!

- The holiday basket project, originally designed for Moms in homeless shelters, has expanded to outreach programs and health center families. Thanks to Judy Savageau and her band of elves (Amy Green, Paula Yockel, Melissa McLaughlin, Jean Roy and Linda Hollis), we were able to collect donations of goods and money from 51 individuals (a total of over \$2600) and fill/deliver 332 gift bags and baskets full of toiletries and other goodies. Many of these were delivered to the shelters by 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year FMIG medical students. Baskets went to 10 shelters and 6 health centers. Thanks to one and all who donated to this project of over 20 years – your support made this community service project a great success!

- The Coats for Kids campaign (in conjunction with the Worcester Public Schools and the Junior League of Women) also soared past last year's number to outfit children with a new coat, hat and mittens. Coordinated by Judy Savageau (with support from Melissa McLaughlin and Lori Davis), we outfitted 56 children this year – the highest number ever (in 12 years). Donations came from 51 individuals – totaling over \$2100. Again, we couldn't have done this without the generous support from so many of you through your dollars, coats and good wishes! Thanks to all who contributed.

### **Professional Service**

- Suzanne Cashman has been invited to serve on the Mass Department of Public Health's Bureau of Environmental Health's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program's State Technical Advisory Group. This is a CDC funded program developing a public website that contains health and environmental data and information useful for a wide range of constituents.

## **Medical Student Education**

- Hugh Silk was a guest lecturer at Brown University School of Medicine on Dec 4th in the 3rd year Population Health Clerkship lead by Jordan White (former UMass Preventive Medicine resident); his talk was entitled “Oral Health - A Population Health Perspective”.

## **Presentations**

- Carole Upshur and Melodie Wenz-Gross attended the National Center for Educational Research PI meeting in Washington DC last week and presented a poster on their study: *Preliminary Findings of Kidsteps II: Promoting School Readiness through Social Emotional Skill Building in Preschool*. Their work is funded for 4 years to conduct a large scale RCT ( R305A130336) in community preschools and Head Start classrooms for at –risk children in Gardner, Fitchburg, Leominster and Worcester. They now have over 1400 families and children participating.