

IPC REWARDS LOCAL INJURY PREVENTION LEADERS

Ft. Myers, Fla.- The Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition recognized today members and organizations who made a positive difference in the safety of our community in 2009.

The Coalition, comprised of more than 80 different health and safety agencies, surprised award recipients at their annual awards presentation hosted by the Cape Coral Yacht Club Pool.

Recipient of the **Sponsor of the Year** award is **Lee County Public Safety** which has continued to provide great support to IPC this year. IPC enjoys warehouse space, grants, contract services, website maintenance and staff because of the generous contributions of this agency.

Lee Memorial's Trauma Center is named the **Organization of the Year**. Trauma surgeons participate in the coalition's efforts to reduce injuries in our community through staff support, event participation, and financial assistance for community outreach. Trauma surgeons and other trauma staff members regularly provide their expertise to the coalition and to the community through the efforts of the coalition.

Stay Alive! Just Drive is recognized for the second time consecutive year in the category of **Program Outreach Effort**. Director Jay Anderson's efforts to bring attention to distracted driving are unsurpassed. His work has been recognized by the state and nation as well as locally for saving the lives of community youth and adults by helping them to keep their eyes on the road and their hands on the steering wheel, no distractions!

The **Citizen Volunteer of the Year** is **Lowell Gerson, PhD**. Dr. Gerson has given three years of service to the coalition traveling at his own expense on behalf of the Coalition to provide education about the prevention of falls. Using his professional epidemiological skills, contacts and knowledge, Dr. Gerson also created a ground breaking Falls Prevention program Step WiseLee in Lee County. In addition he served, for two years, as the Coalition's leader.

Because the IPC is privileged to receive the support of so many safety experts there are two recipients of the **Professional of the Year Award**. **Syndi Bultman, Lee Memorial Health System Injury Prevention Coordinator** has provided great community outreach, never stopping when the road was blocked, always finding a way around or over any obstacle and in doing so, bridged with additional injury prevention arenas for the safety of our community. Bultman has initiated programs, served as a leader and

worked alongside volunteers in every area of prevention and safety for all ages.

Dave Kainrad, Administrative and Finance Services Manager, Lee County Public Safety is also a recipient of the **Professional of the Year Award**.

Dave was a founding member of IPC and has successfully submitted grants to support drowning prevention, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and falls prevention.

Florida Weekly was recognized as the outstanding **Media** recipient because the articles published throughout 2009 gave their audience the facts needed to prevent injury to themselves and others. Featured were behavioral, engineering and policy changes.

And last but certainly not least, the prestigious **Lifetime Achievement Award** was presented to **Durell Phillips** who worked to keep our community safe from 1966 until 1994 through work at the Fort Myers Police Department, the Lee County Sheriff's Department and the Southwest Florida Safety Council. Phillips remains a leader in the field of community injury prevention and safety as the Safety Council's Executive Director.

The Lee County Florida Injury Prevention Coalition could not create a safe community in which to live, play and work without the benefit of the expertise and hands-on service of the recipients recognized today.

About the Lee County Injury Prevention Coalition

The coalition is a multi-disciplinary cooperative of private and public partners that include fire and rescue agencies, emergency medical services, law enforcement agencies, hospital outreach programs, health agencies, and public and private schools. This strong network supports community partnerships to reach the greatest number of individuals, to efficiently use limited resources, and to deliver consistent and unified safety messages to the public.