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June 25, 2009

Blue Cross Blue Shield honors seniors at Executive Ficano Annual Picnic

Dearborn Heights — The seventh annual FicanoFest is taking place Saturday June 27, 2009 from 11:00 until 2:00 p.m. at Warrendale Picnic site in Hines Park located at the corner of Warren and Telegraph at Ann Arbor Trail.

This year Blue Cross Blue Shield will be honoring seniors. The Diana C. Jones award recognizes contributions made by an organization and the Claude Pepper awards are given to two outstanding senior citizen advocates. At noon, the seniors will be presented with the awards.

Winner of the Claude Pepper award in the retired category is **Woodrow Skaff** of Flint who at 91-years-old is an inspiration to young and old alike. He spends as many as five days a week visiting up to 20 seniors who are without family or friends also, spends time leading a weekly Bible study.

Mary Beth Lepczyk of Grosse Pointe Farms won the Claude Pepper award in the working category. Lepczyk is a nurse practitioner and aging specialist on staff with the Department of Medicine, School of Medicine at Wayne State University and an adjunct employee of the Detroit Medical Center where she serves as a manager of the Rosa Parks Geriatric Program. She works directly with older adults, their families and caregivers to enhance her patients' quality of life through providing opportunities to preserve and maximize the physical, intellectual and psychosocial functions of life.

This year's Diana C. Jones Award goes to the **Veterans of Foreign Wars Lempke-Blackwell Post 7573** for providing exceptional community service to older adult veterans. From May 2008 to April 2009, VFW Post 7573 has donated more than \$80,000 and countless hours of volunteer service to the community, including assistance to widows and families.

Hundreds of Seniors from Wayne County will picnic on hotdogs and snacks while spending the day winning prizes at various games including Bingo and Wheel of Fortune.

This is one of many programs in Wayne County that focus on quality of life for our seniors.

For additional media inquiries, call Lisa Fawaz 313.310.8089.

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