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Harriett Phillips, a member of the Hunger Alliance Board, presents a 2013 Acting Out Against Hunger Award to Dr. Patrick Casey and David Berry.

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ACH Recognized for 'Acting Out Against Hunger'

Published on 9/30/2013, under category General News

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ACH was recognized for its efforts to fight childhood hunger at the Arkansas Governor's Mansion on Tuesday, Sept. 24 where more than 230 gathered for the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance's annual Hunger Action Breakfast. The event is the highlight of September's Hunger Action Month observance. Governor Mike Beebe extended his appreciation to and recognition of the individuals who dedicate themselves to feeding the hungry in the state.

The event recognized Arkansans who have shown exceptional leadership in the fight against hunger

in our state. Among the 2013 Acting Out Against Hunger award winners was Arkansas Children's Hospital. Dr. Patrick Casey, Harvey & Bernice Jones Professor of Developmental Pediatrics, who works within the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation (CARE), joined ACH Senior Vice President and COO David Berry in accepting the award on the hospital's behalf.

The work to fight childhood hunger and obesity is truly a team effort at ACH. The hospital's work in this arena grew out of a workgroup of the ACH Natural Wonders project which Dr. Casey has chaired. ACH Board of Directors member Skip Rutherford suggested that the issue of food insecurity should be brought to Natural Wonders given the high prevalence of food insecurity in Arkansas. With leadership provided by David Berry and Scott Gordon, ACH executive vice president, this vision was made a reality.

The Center for Applied Research and Evaluation seeks to improve the health of children in Arkansas and the nation through research in the areas of child health services, pediatric injury prevention and child health development and nutrition. Child Health Services Research identifies cost-effective practices and policies that result in improved health for children, while Child Health, Development and Nutrition research investigates child health, behavior and nutrition in relation to development and family functioning.

The ACH Nutrition Services department, led by director Allison Adams, supports the fight by their participation in the summer feeding program. Shannon Hendrix, director of Clinical Nutrition, is involved in advocacy on a national level through the Children's Hospital Association (CHA) on childhood obesity issues, working with Dr. Casey on issues related to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which has its mobile enrollment van on-site at ACH periodically.

Rosi Smith, vice president of government relations, works each legislative session to promote Arkansas programs that seek to end childhood hunger and food insecurity. The Community Outreach department provides Shopping Matters classes that offer healthy food shopping tips for those on a budget. ACH's social work department helps to identify families experiencing hunger issues and to provide referral for follow-up to get families the help that they need.

ACH is the only hospital in the country to offer the summer feeding program and other programs like Cooking Matters and Cooking Matters at the Store. These are just some of the ways that ACH is involved in the fight against childhood hunger and food insecurity.

Congratulations, Team ACH, on an award well-deserved as we fight to make the children of Arkansas healthier through ending childhood hunger!

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