



Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Oral Health

Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr., MD served as the Chief of the Division of Maternal and Child Health, Ohio Department of Health (ODH) from December 1980 to January 1993. Remembering the harmful effects of dental disease that he had seen in his pediatric patients over the years, Dr. Quilty knew that oral health was an important part of infant and child health. As Division Chief, he “put some money where the mouths were”. Under his leadership, the ODH Oral Health Program became a model for what state dental public health programs across the country should be. More importantly, if not for Dr. Quilty and his support for oral health initiatives such as community water fluoridation, the integration of oral health into programs for children, and school-based sealant programs, many more children in Ohio would suffer tooth decay and its sequelae.

In November 1992, Dr. Quilty announced his intention to leave his position as Division Chief. At a meeting in late November, the (then) Bureau of Dental Health voted to establish the Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Children’s Oral Health. The purpose of the award was to recognize a group of people, a program, or an individual who had distinguished themselves through actions to promote the oral health of Ohio’s children at a community or state level. The first award was presented in December, 1992 and has been awarded annually to a deserving person or group.

In 2004, the award was renamed the Dr. James F. Quilty, Jr. Award for Champions of Oral Health to recognize efforts of recipients that result in improved oral health for all Ohioans, not only children.

ODH continues to honor Dr. Quilty each year by recognizing people throughout the state who carry on his legacy of positively impacting the oral health of Ohioans. Recipients of the award are presented with a plaque and their names are engraved on a perpetual plaque on display at ODH.

Past recipients of the award are:

2018 Michelle Deskins and Laura Longwell, RDH
2017 Canise Bean, DDS, MPH
2016 Vinod Miriyala, BDS, MPH, CAGS, DDS and the Hamilton Local School District
2015 Cindy Payne, Dorothy Stratton and John Stratton
2014 Summa Center for Dental Health
2013 Janet Mesenburg, RN
2012 The Humility of Mary Health Partners (HMHP) Foundation, the HMHP Oral Health Safety Net
Dental Clinic and St. Elizabeth's Dental Residency Program
2011 Gary Ensor, DDS
2010 Dental OPTIONS Referral Coordinators
2009 Homa Amini, DDS, MPH, MS
2008 Rebecca Earlie, MPH, CHES
2007 Barbara Stichter, RDH
2006 Theresa Wukusick
2005 Dental Center of Northwest Ohio
2004 Healthy Smiles for Lancaster
2003 Jenny Kattlove, Terri Donlin
2002 Jackson County Dental Task Force
2001 Lawrence Hill, DDS, MPH
2000 Kathryn Peppe, RN, MS
1999 Paul Casamassimo, DDS, MS
1998 Robert Creedon, DDS
1997 Nancy Goorey, DDS
1996 Judith Taylor, RN
1995 Jack Whittaker, DDS and John Gerstenmaier, DDS
1994 Nancy Carter, RDH, MPH
1993 Dian Partlow, RN
1992 Middletonians for Dental Health