



NEWS RELEASE
January 28, 2019

Hope Light Honors St. Clair County Health Department Employees

Belleville, IL, Monday, January 28, 2019. The Hope Light Foundation in Partnership with the University of Chicago Center for Asian Health Equity (CAHE) presented the “Hope Light Award for Excellence in the Fight Against Cancer” to Kathryn Weisenstein and Jakala Garba of the St. Clair County Health Department. The award recognized Kathryn and Jakala for their “demonstrated excellence and dedication to reducing the burden of colorectal cancer by distributing 78 Fecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) kits in St. Clair County and achieving a return rate

of 29% for the period of July thru December 2018.”



Pictured above L-R: Barb Hohlt-St. Clair County Health Dept, Jakala Garba-St. Clair County Health Dept, Rudy Bess-Hope Light Foundation, Beverly Bess-Hope Light Foundation, Kathryn Weisenstein-St. Clair County Health Dept, Robin Hannon-St. Clair County Health Dept.

Since last July, the St. Clair Health Department has been working in partnership with the University of Chicago’s CAHE and The Hope Light Foundation to distribute colorectal cancer screening FIT kits to eligible patients during annual flu shot campaigns. Funding for this effort was provided by The Center for Asian Health Equity at University of Chicago (CAHE) who is one of 30 organizations funded by the CDC's Colorectal Cancer Control Program (CRCCP) program since 2015.

Chicago Medicine's CAHE received a \$3.5 million grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to increase colorectal cancer screenings in Chicago's Cook County. The grant led to the formation of Cook County CARES (Colorectal Cancer Alliance to Reinforce and Enhance Screening), a partnership between the university and local community health organizations. The CARES program is being expanded beyond Cook County to include implementing FluFIT programs in six rural, high risk for colorectal cancer communities throughout the state that included St. Clair County Health Department.

Colorectal cancer is the second leading cause of cancer-related deaths in men and women in the United States. The CDC recommends that people at average risk of colorectal cancer start regular screening at age 50.

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The attached photo is available for media use.

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Kathryn Weisenstein-St. Clair County Health Dept, Robin Hannon-St. Clair County Health Dept.

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