



**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Baldwin County Social Work Manager honored with statewide award**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Peggy Lassitter of the Baldwin County Health Department was selected as the Alabama Public Health Social Work Manager of the Year for 2015. She was recognized March 20 at the Public Health Social Work Celebration and Training held in Montgomery during National Social Work Month.

Keeping team members motivated and working together for a common goal is a unique ability of Mrs. Lassitter, according to her supporters. She is credited with playing a pivotal role in the overall success of the Ozanam Charitable Pharmacy Program that is unique to Escambia, Baldwin and Mobile counties.

Colleagues describe Mrs. Lassitter as a strong public health leader with a positive attitude and is “a self starter” who teaches CPR classes to nurses and volunteers. After working many times in emergency shelters, both mass care and medical needs, she assumed the role of coordinator of the Baldwin County Medical Reserve Corps (BCMRC). Prior to her work, this organization did not exist.

Mrs. Lassitter took the initiative to seek grant opportunities, prepare, recruit partners and make plans to benefit BCMRC. Because of her work, the National Association of County and City Health Officials awarded two grants: the Challenge Award to establish breathing stations in shelters and a Capacity Building Award to provide assistance for children’s disaster preparedness.

A dedicated employee, wife, and mother, Mrs. Lassitter was selected from a group of social work managers from across the state. Public health social workers provide intervention services to help clients discover ways of meeting their needs and preventing future problems. Clients they serve may be children, families, elderly persons, and persons with functional and access needs.