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Leigh Hayes named Health Department Employee of the Year *Alice J. Olsson Memorial Employee of the Year award presented to Leigh Hayes*

BLOOMINGTON – Leigh Hayes, a case manager in the Family Case Management Division at the McLean County Health Department was selected as the 2016 Alice J. Olsson Memorial Employee of the Year. Hayes, who holds a master's degree in social work, was nominated by co-workers in the family case management program and chosen from a pool of 12 nominees by a cross-divisional selection committee made up of previous recipients of the recognition. Hayes received her award at the health department's December holiday staff meeting.

A health department employee since 2013, Hayes was praised for her professionalism, extensive social work experience, and positive attitude. She is regarded by her co-workers as someone you know you can count on and someone who is an excellent mentor and role model.

"Leigh is an exceptional social worker who embodies the definition of compassion," says Sophie Rebert, supervisor of the Family Case Management program adding, "From making sure a child without a car seat has a safe way home before leaving a clinic appointment, to delivering a Christmas tree to a family on Christmas Eve, Hayes is always going that extra mile for her clients."

Hayes's passion for social work and wealth of community resource knowledge coupled with her level head and calm demeanor is also of great benefit to her clients when they are in crisis. Whether advocating for a mentally ill participant in the Better Birth Outcomes (BBO) program or working intensively with a family who has moved from an inner city area to McLean County in search of a better life for their family, Hayes diligently works to ensure the needs of clients are met.

States Rebert, "We are fortunate to have Leigh: her passion for helping the community achieve healthier birth outcomes; the time she takes to educate families about the importance of prenatal care; and, her fervent advocacy for families in order to eliminate barriers to accessing healthcare, make her very special."

The Alice J. Olsson Memorial Employee of the Year award honors an employee of the McLean County Health Department for outstanding achievement related to public health services in McLean County. Criteria for the award include commitment to the health department mission, demonstrated success in furthering the mission, exemplary representation of the department and achievement above and beyond required responsibilities.

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Photo caption: Leigh Hayes, the 2016 recipient of the Alice J. Olsson Memorial Employee of the Year Award