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Harleysville Pharmacist Julie Gerhart-Rothholz Honored for Outstanding Community Service

Washington, DC – The Pennsylvania Pharmacists Association (PPA) has selected Julie Gerhart-Rothholz, RPh, MS, as the recipient of the 2014 Bowl of Hygeia Award for outstanding community service. Gerhart-Rothholz was presented with the award at the PPA Annual Conference, Leadership & Awards Dinner on Saturday, September 20. The award is sponsored by the American Pharmacists Association Foundation, the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations and the American Pharmacists Association with support from Boehringer Ingelheim.

Gerhart-Rothholz is an employee of Merck & Company, Inc. She earned her degree from the University of the Sciences Philadelphia College of Pharmacy in 1994. Gerhart-Rothholz became a pharmacist because she had a passion for helping people. She began her career serving patients in nursing homes, those with intellectual and physical disabilities who were in group homes, and those who were in psychiatric care. Her desire to help people is not limited to pharmacy, and she always has an eye to support those who need it most. For about 20 years, her family hosted infant foster siblings, and she learned firsthand about the desperate need for families who could provide care.

Gerhart-Rothholz's community involvement is extensive. For many years, she chaired or served as site captain for drives that collected food, clothing, cleaning supplies, toys, and school supplies for the disadvantaged people served by the Keystone Opportunity Center. As the mother of a child with Down syndrome, she and her husband worked with their county and created welcome packets for new parents of children with Down syndrome. She has volunteered for the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Buddy Walk, running the auction and raffle in 2013 on just 3 weeks' notice and raising more money than auctions in prior years. She also donates toys, therapy tools, and coats for children in the Montgomery County Early Intervention Program and their families, and donates to the Arc Alliance of Montgomery County to allow therapists to attend the National Down Syndrome Congress each year. She is a member of Parent-to-Parent of PA, serving as a mentor/peer support for other parents of children with special needs. Her family received the Arc Alliance's Children's Champion Award in 2013.

Her state pharmacy association activities include serving as a board member of the PPA Educational Foundation (2009 to present), committee member of the PPA Educational Foundation Grant Committee (2011 to present), leader of the PPA APhA House of Delegates discussion (2011 to present), and presenter for the PPA Educational Foundation Grant Program. She has been involved with the American Pharmacists Association as a member (1993 to present), convention delegate (2003 to present), program moderator for Practical Tools for Medication Safety in Acute Care (2003), and New Business Review Committee member (2004). She is also a member of the American Society of Consultant Pharmacists (2004 to present), National Community Pharmacists Association (2004 to present), and University of the Sciences in Philadelphia Alumni Association Board of Directors (2008 to present).

Established in 1958, the Bowl of Hygeia Award recognizes pharmacists who possess outstanding records of civic leadership in their communities and encourages pharmacists to take active roles in the affairs of their respective communities. The award is presented annually by participating state pharmacist associations, including those in the

District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. In addition to service through their local, state and national pharmacy associations, award recipients have devoted their time, talent and resources to a wide variety of causes and community service.

The Bowl of Hygeia is the most widely recognized international symbol for the pharmacy profession and is considered one of the profession's most prestigious awards. The Bowl of Hygeia has been associated with the pharmacy profession since as early as 1796 when the symbol was used on a coin minted for the Parisian Society of Pharmacy. The bowl represents a medicinal potion and the snake represents healing. Healing through medicine is precisely why the pharmacy profession has adopted the Bowl of Hygeia symbol.

Information regarding contributing to the Bowl of Hygeia is available by contacting the APhA Foundation at 202-429-7565 or info@aphafoundation.org.

About the American Pharmacists Association Foundation

The APhA Foundation, a nonprofit organization based in Washington, D.C., is a trusted source of research demonstrating how pharmacists can improve health care. The APhA Foundation's mission is to improve people's health through pharmacists' patient care services. The APhA Foundation is affiliated with the American Pharmacists Association, the national professional society of pharmacists in the U.S. For more information, please visit the APhA Foundation website www.aphafoundation.org. Follow the APhA Foundation on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for the latest updates.

About the National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations

The National Alliance of State Pharmacy Associations (NASPA) promotes leadership, sharing, learning, and policy exchange among pharmacy leaders in all 50 states and Washington, DC, and provides education and advocacy to support pharmacists, patients, and communities working together to improve public health. NASPA was founded in 1927 as the National Council of State Pharmacy Association Executives (NCSPA). For more information, please visit the NASPA website www.naspa.us.