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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **HOSPITALS AND SCHOOLS RECOGNIZED FOR LEADING BY EXAMPLE**

LITTLE ROCK (July 6, 2017)—The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement (ACHI) announced winners of their Healthy Active Arkansas Hospital Challenge and School Challenge during an event today at the Arkansas Statehouse Convention Center. ACHI’s challenges encouraged Arkansas hospitals and schools to participate in the Blue and You Fitness Challenge, competing against each other for regional and statewide fitness champion awards. Twenty hospitals and 53 schools participated.

“At ACHI, we believe that hospitals must lead by example when it comes to health and fitness,” said Dr. Joe Thompson, President & CEO of ACHI. “In addition, schools are an ideal environment for students and teachers to foster lifelong healthy habits. This contest complements the Healthy Active Arkansas plan for reducing obesity and improving the health of Arkansans, two of our passions.”

Winners of the ACHI Healthy Active Arkansas Hospital Challenge were chosen based on the Blue and You contest metrics. Winners included:

#### **HOSPITAL CHALLENGE REGIONAL WINNERS**

- Arkansas Valley- John Ed Chambers Hospital
- Metro- Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute
- North Central- Baxter Regional Medical Center
- Northeast- St. Bernards Healthcare
- Northwest- North Arkansas Regional Medical Center
- Southeast- Baptist Health Medical Center - Stuttgart
- Southwest- Levi Hospital

#### **HOSPITAL CHALLENGE OVERALL WINNERS**

- Small population- Baptist Health Medical Center - Heber Springs
- Medium population- Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute
- Large population- Baptist Health Medical Center - Conway

Winners of the ACHI Healthy Active Arkansas School Challenge were also chosen based on the Blue and You contest metrics. Winners included:

#### **SCHOOL CHALLENGE REGIONAL WINNERS**

- Northwest- Lamar Elementary School
- Northeast- Marion School District Administration
- Central- Deaf Leopards
- Southeast- Drew Central School District

#### **SCHOOL CHALLENGE OVERALL WINNERS**

- Small population- Rena Rockets
- Medium population- Lamar Middle School
- Large population- Northside Elementary

The Arkansas Center for Health Improvement is a nonpartisan, independent health policy center dedicated to improving the health of Arkansans. It is jointly supported by the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, the Arkansas Department of Health, Arkansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield, and Arkansas Children’s Hospital. Information about ACHI’s work is available at <http://www.achi.net>.

For more information about Healthy Active Arkansas visit <http://www.healthyactive.org>.