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HEALTH DEPARTMENT  
NEWS RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **FOOD SAFETY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

**GRAND RAPIDS** – Deciding where to eat tonight, but you aren't sure about a restaurant's health and safety practices? Your decision may have become easier, thanks to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Food Safety Awards. This program recognizes establishments that show a high degree of safe food handling practices and sanitation. The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) presented award winners with window clings and certificates to hang where patrons can see them.

The winning facilities maintained outstanding food safety practices throughout the year, protecting the public from the risk of foodborne illness. "Many Kent County restaurants do well in their inspections, but more than a quarter of them really go the distance," says Adam London, Administrative Health Officer for Kent County. "The staff feels it is important to recognize these particular locations for regularly passing inspections with few or no violations. Providing them with this award allows customers to see that the facility has established a safer cooking and serving environment."

The Kent County Health Department issued 471 awards out of more than 1700 licensed facilities that were inspected through 2013. Food service establishments are grouped into three classes (X, Y, and Z) based on the type of food preparation. In order for the listed classes of food service establishments to qualify for an award, they must meet the following criteria:

- Facility was in operation during the year of review;
- Facility must have a certified food safety manager, if required, for year of review;
- No repeat violations for the two routine inspections conducted during the year of review;
- No confirmed violations of Michigan Smoke Free Law;
- No enforcement action taken against facility for year of review;
- No confirmed foodborne illness outbreaks linked to facility for year of review;
- No complaints which are confirmed by inspection and determined to be a public health risk;
- Must not receive any Priority or Priority Foundation violations in the licensing year;
- Class X must have no Core Violations, Class Y must not exceed 2 Core Violations, and Class Z cannot exceed 3 Core Violations.

KCHD inspections look for potential risk factors that contribute to foodborne illness, such as an unapproved food source, poor food employee hygiene, improper cooking temperatures, inadequate cold & hot holding of food, and cleanliness of food contact surfaces. See more about the program, and find out who took honors, at: <http://www.accesskent.com/Health/FoodServices/awards.htm>.

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).

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