

## **Media Release**

**February 27, 2004**

### ***Hoosier Uplands Representatives Attend National Rural Health Policy Institute***

Three employees of Hoosier Uplands were among a delegation of six representatives from the Rural Health field in Indiana that recently attended the National Rural Health Association's 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Health Policy Institute in Washington, DC. Attending from Hoosier Uplands were Steve Adams, Director of Strategic Development and Consulting Services; Shawna Girgis, Associate Director of Strategic Development and Consulting Services and Director of the Southeast/South Central Indiana Area Health Education Center (AHEC) through Hoosier Uplands; and Corey Murphy, Assistant Director of Strategic Development and Consulting Services. Girgis also currently serves as the President of the Indiana Rural Health Association's Board of Directors.

The Institute focused on government affairs and policy issues affecting rural health. Participants heard from a media panel of national reporters on the topic of rural healthcare, received an update from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid concerning the significant changes occurring for rural America, and heard speeches from top officials from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Breakout sessions focused on Emergency Medical Services in Rural America, Making the Case for Improved Healthcare Services, Insuring Rural America, Meeting Workforce Needs, Medical Technology in Rural America, and Successful Rural Health Advocacy. In addition, receptions were held to honor the 21 members of the National Advisory Committee on Rural Health and Human Services and the co-chairs of the House Rural Health Care Coalition and the Senate Rural Health Caucus. In addition, the 2004 National Rural Health Association Legislative Award Winners were honored and meetings with members of Indiana's Congressional Delegation occurred.

Hoosier Uplands' Strategic Development and Consulting Services area is responsible for managing the Mitchell based non-profit organization's involvement in rural health initiatives including primary care services, health professional's training, and emergency preparedness. In addition, through fee for service consulting services, expertise of grant writing and project management services are available to assist other organizations and communities with rural health issues.

The National Rural Health Association is a national non-profit membership organization, whose mission is to improve the health and health care of rural Americans and to provide leadership on rural issues through advocacy, communications, education, and research.

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