



## Johnson County Government Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### Johnson County Department of Health and Environment employee receives Kansas Public Health Association's highest award

(OLATHE, KS – **OCTOBER 11, 2012**) Eldonna Chesnut, childcare licensing division director for the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE), received the Kansas Public Health Association's (KPHA) highest honor last week – the Samuel J. Crumbine Medal.

Chesnut was nominated by her peers for her leadership and guidance which has made KPHA a stronger and more effective organization. Her work has resulted in an increase in sharing of information, support of current and prospective projects across the state and a more targeted focus on public health legislative priorities in Kansas.

"We are very proud of Eldonna for her leadership at the local and state level. She has given public health a stronger voice in Kansas which benefits the health of all Kansans," said Lougene Marsh, JCDHE director.

A native of Bowling Green, Mo., Chesnut lives in Gardner, Kan. and has worked at JCDHE for 10 years. She manages a staff of 15 and is responsible for the licensing and inspection of all child care facilities in Johnson County, Kan.

The Samuel J. Crumbine Medal is given annually at the Kansas Public Health Association's fall conference. Since 1946, recipients have been chosen for their meritorious service and state, regional, or national recognition related to the improvement of the health of Kansans and/or the environment of the state.

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is the oldest and largest organization of public health professionals in the state, representing more than 800 members from over 50 occupations/organizations.

KPHA is concerned with a broad set of issues affecting personal and environmental health, including federal and state funding for health programs, pollution control, programs and policies related to chronic and infectious diseases, a smoke-free society, and professional education in public health.

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### About Johnson County

Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 544,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. Johnson County offers a vibrant quality of life including nationally recognized schools, libraries and parks where businesses and families choose to locate and call their home. For more information visit the county's website at [www.jocogov.org](http://www.jocogov.org).