



## 2025 Esther M. Holderby Extraordinary CHW Award

**Description:** The Esther M. Holderby Extraordinary CHW Award honors a CHW, CHR or promotor(a) with 5 or more years of experience and who has overcome personal adversity to promote health in their community. In addition to promoting health in his or her community, the recipient of the award will have advocated for funding and/or services needed in their community to promote health. The nominee does not need to work in cancer education or prevention.

Ms. Holderby was a 4-time, 25- year cancer survivor and an extraordinarily dedicated CHW. She lost her battle with breast cancer in 2005. Until shortly before her passing, Esther continued to educate both men and women about the importance of early detection. Ms. Holderby was passionate about reaching as many community members as possible. She was a celebrity on local television and radio broadcast taking every possible opportunity to educate the community. Additionally, she advocated for sustainable funding for CHWs and public health as an active member of the Massachusetts Association of Community Health Workers and the Massachusetts Public Health Association.

The Esther M. Holderby Extraordinary CHW Award, formally known as the Esther M. Holderby Dedicated CHW was established by the Holderby family in 2006. Since establishing the award, a CHW has been honored each year at the Unity Conference. Unity was an important event in Esther’s life. She described Unity as a “family reunion” after attending her first conference. She also presented at Unity several times, often with her daughter, Lisa Renee.

The recipient receives a recognition award, certificate, and a 1-year CHW membership for the National Association of Community Health Workers. The award, certificate and membership are provided by the Holderby Family in memory of Esther.

### Past Recipients:

Martha Byler, OH (2006)	Ron Sanders, CA (2014)	Carla Caraballo, MA (2023)
Anita Buel, MN (2007)	Zee Turner, MD (2014) Posthumously	Mattie Clark (2024)
Milta Franco, MA (2008)	Linda Medrano, TX (2015)	
Martha Ramirez, FL (2009)	Terri Price, MI (2016)	
Corinne Justine, AZ (2010)	Wanda Castillo, NH (2017)	
Maria Lopez, OR (2011)	Naomi Cottoms, AR (2019)	
Ezekiel Lopes, MA (2012)	Renee Chavez-Maes, NM (2022)	

Since 2006, many additional extraordinary CHWs have been awarded Certificates of Honorable Mention for their dedication to improving community health.

### Award criteria:

- a. Be a community health worker, community health representative or promotor(a) de salud.
- b. Have at least 5 years' experience as a CHW, CHR or promotor(a) de salud.
- c. Have made a significant contribution to community health.
- d. Be an advocate for the community served.
- e. Be active in local, state, or national CHW, CHR or promotor(a) de salud organizations or groups.
- f. Have a completed nomination packet submitted by **Friday, May 16, 2025**.

### Nomination Process:

- a. To submit a nomination, complete the nomination form at <https://forms.gle/zBYP8mJgXoa8Z6U87>
- b. Nomination letters must be sent to [emh.chw.award@gmail.com](mailto:emh.chw.award@gmail.com), Subject: **Extraordinary CHW**.
- c. Completed nomination form with description of why the person is nominated, and two (2) additional letters of recommendation must be received by the deadline. One (1) letter of recommendation must be written by a peer or colleague who can speak to the impact of the nominee in the community. The other one (1) letter should come from a local, statewide, or national CHW, CHR or promotor(a) organization, whenever possible. Where there is no CHW organization, a peer or colleague may submit the second letter. These letters are required in addition to the nominator's statement. Only complete nomination packets will be considered.
- d. Please do not send additional attachments, additional materials will not be considered during the selection process.

### Selection Process

- During the selection process, the committee will use the APHA Community Health Worker (CHW) definition as a guiding framework. For more information, please refer to the APHA CHW definition: [APHA Community Health Workers](https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers). <https://www.apha.org/apha-communities/member-sections/community-health-workers>
- The selection committee is comprised of members of the Holderby family and others who knew Esther Holderby. The committee is co-chaired by Carley M. & Sheyene S. Desillier, Esther's granddaughters. Please send any questions to [emh.chw.award@gmail.com](mailto:emh.chw.award@gmail.com), subject: Extraordinary CHW.