



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**Michigan Primary Care Association AmeriCorps Member Honored for Distinguished Service**

At the Michigan Primary Care Association's (MPCA) 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Awards ceremony held October 12, 2010, the non-profit association representing Community Health Centers honored Natsumi Asanuma, AmeriCorps Member, for her distinguished service.

The MPCA Distinguished Service Award honors commitment, dedication, and outstanding service on behalf of patients of Michigan Community Health Centers.

"Natsumi Asanuma has exhibited great commitment and extraordinary leadership in her year of service with the MPCA AmeriCorps program. She has worked tirelessly to connect Michigan families with low-cost and free health insurance coverage for their children, and affordable, quality health care in Community Health Centers across the state," said Phillip Bergquist, CHIPRA Program Manager.

Michigan is home to 172,000 or more uninsured children. Many families aren't sure if their children qualify for health insurance, but 90% of all uninsured children in the state are eligible for a low-cost or free health insurance program. MPCA is committed to serving families by enrolling children in the MICHild and Healthy Kids program, which provide all of the health care services children and teens need to grow up healthy, including regular check-ups, dental care, prescriptions, immunizations, hospital care, and more.

MPCA has been the voice for Community Health Centers and other community-based providers in Michigan since 1980. It is a leader in building a healthy society in which all residents have convenient and affordable access to quality health care. Today, 31 Community Health Center organizations operate over 160 sites across the state, providing care to nearly 600,000 patients each year regardless of insurance status or income. They are part of a nationwide network of 1,250 Community Health Centers that 20 million people call their health care home. That number is expected to double within the next five years as \$11 billion in funding under the Affordable Care Act is awarded to Health Centers. Community Health Center services are tailored to meet the unique needs of patients and surrounding communities, providing primary care, dental care, behavioral health care, pharmacy services, and much more.

For more information about Michigan Primary Care Association and Michigan Community Health Centers, please visit [www.m pca.net](http://www.m pca.net) or call 517.381.8000.

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