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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Food Service Organizations Receive Food Safety Excellence Recognition

(JUNEAU, AK) — The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Food Safety and Sanitation Program is proud to issue three 2016 State of Alaska Food Service Excellence (SAFE) awards to the following food establishments: Wildflower Court, a facility providing nursing care and rehabilitation services in Juneau; the Fairbanks Community Food Bank; and Primrose Retirement Community in Wasilla.

Establishments are qualified to apply for this recognition if their inspection history demonstrates a pattern of few violations and they have a food safety management system which includes routine self-assessments. Applicants that meet the criteria and demonstrate a commitment to the practice and enforcement of high standards for food safety are presented with the SAFE Award.

Kimberly Stryker, Program Manager for the Food Safety and Sanitation Program said, "We applaud the commitment to Alaskans' health demonstrated by Wildflower Court, the Fairbanks Community Food Bank, and Primrose Retirement Community. The recipients of these awards are particularly meaningful because they provide food to people who are more likely to get sick from harmful bacteria that may be found in food — Alaskans who are over the age of 65 or who have illnesses or weakened immune systems. We hope that other food services in Alaska will soon follow."

DEC would like to encourage food establishments that have a food safety management system in place to apply for the SAFE Award via our website at <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/safe.htm>.

For more information on DEC's Division of Environmental Health Food Safety and Sanitation Program which permits approximately 4,500 food establishments in Alaska, visit <http://dec.alaska.gov/eh/fss/index.htm>.

Attached Photos:

- Photo of Fairbanks Community Food Bank award recognition in Fairbanks on April 13, 2016.
- Photo of Primrose Retirement Community award recognition in Wasilla on April 18, 2016.
- Photo of Wildflower Court award recognition in Juneau on March 17, 2016.

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