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Ohio AAP honors doc, school board member

Dr. David Roer earns state's Arnold Friedman Award.

By Jill Kelley
Staff Writer

The Ohio Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has presented the Arnold Friedman Community Pediatrician Award to local pediatrician and longtime Centerville City Schools board member Dr. David Roer.

The award recognizes the efforts and dedication of pediatricians serving their communities.

Roer was presented with the honor by Dr. Gerald Tiberio, president of the Ohio Chapter of the AAP, in Columbus on Nov. 6.

"When you think about a community volunteer, you have to think about David Roer," Tiberio said. "David has been volunteering, working primarily on children's related issues, forever."

In addition to his 17 years on the school board, Tiberio lauded Roer's fight to ban soda drinks from the schools "before it became popular to do so."

He added that Roer and the school board successfully eliminated junk food from the school vending machines and replaced them with healthy alternatives. Roer helped also lead the schools to join Public Health — Dayton and Montgomery County's "5-2-1 Almost None" health initiative and has improved the quality of the school lunches.

"Even years before the state's smoking ban was established, (Roer) was able to help rid the schools of smoking by the teachers in all the schools building," Tiberio said.

Roer's work as chairman and one of the founders of the South Suburban Coalition, a coalition of seven communities working together to fight teenage alcohol and drug use, was recognized, as were his fundraising efforts for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the March of Dimes and the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

It was noted that Roer is chairman of the Boonshoft School of Medicine's Academy of Medicine, which raises money to help support medical students by offering them low-interest loans to help pay for medical school.

Tiberio said that this year, Roer brought in professional golf legend Tom Watson for the fundraiser.

"It was the highest attended fundraiser in the academy's history," he said.

Roer is board emeritus for the Special Wish Foundation, is on the executive committee at Dayton Children's Medical Center and was on the founding board that began the Dayton Children's Museum in Dayton.

He works at Pediatric Associates of Dayton, which has offices in Kettering, Beavercreek and Englewood.

Roer was raised in the Catskills of New York and has lived in Dayton since 1980. He attended the State University of New York at Binghamton and did his graduate work at Ohio State University.

He earned his medical degree from Wright State University and was a pediatric resident at Dayton Children's Medical Center.

Roer said it is an honor to receive this award.

"Volunteering, giving back to the community, helping children achieve their goals and their full potential — there is no greater reward," he said. "I love it!"

Roer and his wife, Jenni, have two daughters and live in Washington Twp.