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First Things First honors Champions for Young Children, Flagstaff

FLAGSTAFF (June 3, 2016) – First Things First recognizes Theresa Kulpinski as a 2016 First Things First Champion for Young Children.

The award is given to local champions who actively volunteer their time to raise public awareness of the importance of early childhood development and health. Champions spend a significant amount of time volunteering with FTF and building public awareness about the importance of early childhood issues.

Kulpinski, who lives in Flagstaff, has volunteered with First Things First to share resources with parents who have young children, serve on subcommittees of the local FTF regional council, and engage her colleagues in being vocal for their support of early childhood health and development.

“Raising a family is a difficult thing to do, no matter what your economic status is. As a community, we want our children to succeed. Thankfully, Flagstaff provides a plethora of resources that our families and communities have access to, exposing our children to opportunities that generate learning to increase overall wellness of our community. Building awareness of the importance of early childhood and developmental health will give our children the jumpstart they need to be successful in life,” said Kulpinski.

Kulpinski works as the Program Manager for the Coconino County Public Health Services District Arizona Nutrition Network. For thirteen years she has been a strong advocate for healthy nutrition and development, serving everyone from pregnant moms to senior citizens. Before that she taught physical education in the schools, coached sports, coordinated sporting events for the City of Flagstaff, provided in home child care, volunteered with numerous organizations and raised her children who are now in college.

Kulpinski engages in early childhood awareness-raising efforts across Coconino such as:

- Dedicating her time to serve as the chair of the Alliance for Children’s Early Success
- Helping to organize and support early childhood resource fairs in honor of Week of the Young Child in communities across Northern Arizona
- Attending FTF awareness building trainings on early childhood messaging and always seeking out ways to advance her understanding of early childhood health and development
- Recruiting her staff and parents in her programs to share the messages and early childhood fact sheets to build support for strengthening children and families
- And always being the first to volunteer to help with projects like writing for early childhood mini grants, serving on FTF subcommittees, and lending her help and expertise to our community outreach efforts

For more information about Kulpinski and your local regional council partnership please visit:

<http://www.azftf.gov/pages/yourregionalcouncil.aspx> and click on your region.

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About First Things First – First Things First is a voter-created, statewide organization that funds early education and health programs to help kids be successful once they enter kindergarten. Decisions about how those funds are spent are made by local councils staffed by community volunteers. To learn more, visit azftf.gov.