

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Walworth County

Walworth County Presented Well Workplace Award by Wellness Councils of America

The Wellness Council of America (WELCOA), with local affiliate Wellness Council of Wisconsin (WCWI), recently presented its coveted **Gold Level** Well Workplace Award to **Walworth County**. The **Gold** Well Workplace Award recognizes an organization for its commitment to the health and well-being of its employees.

By achieving the Well Workplace Award, **Walworth County** has made a long-lasting commitment to the health and well-being of its employees. As stated by WELCOA President Ryan Picarella, "Good companies know that their employees are their most valuable asset. Great companies adopt policies that support employees' efforts to reduce health risks and are bold about motivating them through bold strategies, programs, and tactics. Great companies know that by improving their employees' health, they can reduce health care costs."

The Walworth County employee wellness program has been in operation for nine years. This is an employee-led program comprised of 10 members, representing all departments in the County. Over the last nine years, the program's participants have collectively lost more than 3,500 lbs of weight, walked thousands of miles, given enough blood to save hundreds of people, established regular workout routines, adopted healthy eating habits and much more. "It is an honor for Walworth County to receive this award, as it shows the dedication of the Employee Wellness Council members and the commitment of the employees of Walworth County to improve their health and well-being" said Lisa Henke, Risk/Benefits Manager.

The Well Workplace Awards initiative is driven by a rigorous set of criteria outlined in WELCOA's seven benchmarks to a result-oriented Well Workplace. Since its inception in 1991, over 1,000 organizations, ranging from educational institutions to non-profit and profit sectors have joined the list of "America's Healthiest Companies" by receiving the Well Workplace Award. "Walworth County has clearly demonstrated their commitment to protect and enhance the health and well-being of their employees. By meeting the comprehensive standards necessary to achieve the Gold Level Well Workplace Award, Walworth County is prioritizing the well-being of their employees as a foundation of their organization's culture," said Wellness Council of Wisconsin's Executive Director, Marissa Kalkman.

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The Wellness Council of Wisconsin was founded in 1985 by nine employers from the Wisconsin business community. With more than 6,000 member organizations located throughout North America, WELCOA is highly recognized and regarded for their innovative and result-oriented approach to worksite wellness.

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