



2023 CHAMPS Awardees

Virtual Awards Ceremony | Monday, January 22, 2024

Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award
John Felton, Retired Chief Executive Officer
RiverStone Health, MT

John Felton has lived a life of service to his community throughout his career. John joined RiverStone Health in 2004 and served in various roles including Vice President of Operations and Deputy Health Officer. Until recently, he served as both RiverStone Health CEO and Yellowstone County Health Officer, and since he announced his retirement, he has transitioned to “just” work as the County Health Officer. He has served tirelessly in all of these roles at the community health center and the county's public health department. John's innovative leadership style has encouraged collaborative efforts between the CHC, the public health department, and many other community partners to tackle the needs of the community.

John guided RiverStone Health through numerous changes in his nearly two decades of service. Most recently, he led the organization and the community through the COVID-19 pandemic. He was recognized in 2021 by the Billings Chamber of Commerce for his efforts to keep the community safe and his support for businesses struggling to adapt to the public health emergency.

John has shown a dedication to the staff of RiverStone Health and the community that is rarely seen. He worked diligently to aid RiverStone Health's staff in continuing their operations during the pandemic and in their endeavor to independently run testing and immunization sites. He continues to serve in his final years at RiverStone Health, giving a three-year notice of his retirement to allow for a new CEO to be found and to assist in the transition. In doing so, John ensured that the transition for RiverStone Health was flawless and manageable for all involved. Even as he nears the end of his career, John is leading by example and continuing to support the RiverStone Health team as they carry out the mission.

John has advocated on the local and national levels for care for the most underserved populations in the country and has worked to make sure that everyone has access to quality healthcare, regardless of their background, and truly embodies RiverStone Health's mission of “improving life, health, and safety.”

*For his dedication to advancing the mission and recognition
of Community Health Centers in the Mountain/Plains States,
we are pleased to present John Felton
with the CHAMPS Stanley J. Brasher Legacy Award.*