



## Media Release

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**For Immediate Release**  
April 11, 2012

### **Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers to Receive Paragon Award**

Former First Lady of Arkansas Betty Bumpers will receive the 2012 Billie Ann Myers Paragon Award for her pioneering promotion of volunteerism in the state and for her decades of work promoting childhood vaccinations, the Department of Human Services' Division of Community Service and Non-profit Support (DCSNS) announced Wednesday.

"Betty Bumpers embodies what the Paragon Award stands for. Through her volunteerism and leadership, she has caused significant improvement in the quality of life for all Arkansans," said DCSNS Director Sherry Middleton.

Bumpers will receive the award during The Summit, an annual conference sponsored by DCSNS on April 26 and 27 at the Airport Holiday Inn in Little Rock. The award was created to honor people who have made an impact in the field of volunteer management through leadership that advocates changes for the better, working to bring about those changes and working to help others bring about change.

"I am deeply honored and very appreciative to receive the Paragon Award for my life of volunteer service and to stand with those who have won before," Bumpers said.

Because of Bumpers work on the "Every Child in '74" campaign that sought to have every child in the state immunized against childhood disease, Arkansas achieved one of the highest immunization rates in the country. Her example in Arkansas was instrumental in the creation of similar immunization programs in other states that continue today. After her husband was elected to the U.S. Senate, Bumpers and First Lady Rosalynn Carter expanded the immunization campaign nationwide with help from the White House, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and the former Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. Ultimately, Bumpers' dedication to children's health issues, empowering women, and continued volunteer effort in Arkansas led to the creation

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of what is now the DHS Division of Community Service and Nonprofit Support, formally known as the Division of Volunteerism.

The Summit is a conference where volunteers, philanthropists, and nonprofits leaders can enjoy professional development workshops and network. This year there will be motivating new sessions such as: Generational Mentalities, Planning a Better Meeting, Dealing with Conflict, Working with the Media, and A Guide to Moral Decision Making. To register and view the program, please visit our website: <http://humanservices.arkansas.gov/dcsns>.