

## **CHAIRMAN'S AWARD 2020**

Since the time COVID-19 was recognized as an emerging threat, Greene County Public Health staff have worked tirelessly, seven days a week, to monitor and protect the health of the community.

Every test is reported and recorded, all COVID-19 positive cases are isolated, and all contacts and travelers are identified and quarantined to prevent further spread of the virus. Each quarantined or isolated person is followed to monitor their health. For many Public Health employees, this is not their usual work, but they have embraced it with dedication and excellence.

The staff have been working closely with all of the local nursing home and assisted living facilities to protect our most vulnerable population and those that care for them. They are on the front lines testing in long term care facilities and in our towns and villages. They have set-up drive through testing sites throughout Greene County with over **960** tested at last report.

Recently, Public Health successfully launched CommCare, an electronic medical records system developed through the New York State Department of Health. While this has been a "heavy lift" during the pandemic response, the Department felt it was an important safety measure to securely track the work they do.

While the demands of their "regular" work have returned, those essential services, including Family Planning, Immunization, Maternal Child Health, Lead Prevention, Rabies response and vaccination clinics, children's Early Intervention and Preschool Special Education programs, Public Health Preparedness, Public Health Education and Outreach and Communicable Disease Surveillance and Control, are happening alongside the Agency's new work in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In recognition of the hard work and dedication exhibited by our Public Health professionals during this challenging time, Public Health Director Kimberly Kaplan proudly nominated her entire staff for this award. This honor is well deserved and I ask that you join me in thanking **ALL members of the Greene County Public Health Department** for their loyal dedication, unwavering commitment, and outstanding contributions toward our goals, and for making Greene County stand above the rest. Congratulations!