

2020 Employee of the Year

This year's Employee of the Year is someone that few people see during the day. That's because she literally spends her time sweating over a hot stove!

Our honoree has been involved in food service her entire life and is always cooking. She starts her day before the sun comes up, preparing meals for the Athens Rivertown Senior Center, as well as the Catskill and Coxsackie meal sites.

Not only is she always cooking, but during the pandemic--which continues to this day--she is consistently putting in 20 hours of overtime a pay period to ensure that the seniors and disabled of the county receive their meals. Her workload has increased by approximately 30% during this period. While she normally prepares 175 meals on a daily basis, the COVID outbreak has raised that number to approximately 225--and the demand is increasing every week! Others in the Human Services Department jokingly say, "if you cut her she bleeds gravy."

In addition to cooking and related tasks, such as checking menus, ordering supplies and inventory control, our honoree supervises, directs, and teaches meal site staff; substitutes for the Senior Service Center Manager when he is absent; volunteers for miscellaneous kitchen duties; and adheres to established procedures and health requirements. When supplies don't come in as expected she must scramble and prepare a USDA allowable substitute. Throughout the day she maintains an open line of communication with the main office and the Registered Dietician. She is an active member of the department, the senior's menu committee, and the planning committee for the Athens Senior Center.

She brings home the bacon and fries it up in the pan. For all of these reasons and more, Executive Director of Human Services Terry McGee Ward, enthusiastically nominated

Central Kitchen Cook JoanAnn "JoJo" Rouse

as the **2020 Employee of the Year**. The Greene County Legislature applauds the nomination and extends its sincere thanks and congratulations for JoanAnn's commitment and exemplary service to Greene County and its citizens. Congratulations!