

# Public Health region dinner recognizes year of accomplishments and honors attendees

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On Thursday Jan. 20, the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Region held its third annual January Kick off and Recognition Dinner at the Common Man Restaurant in Claremont. The Regional Coordinator Jessica McAuliff hosted the dinner and presented a year of accomplishments to the attendees. Those present included representatives from the New Hampshire State Department of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security Emergency Management, Connecticut Valley Home Care and Hospice, County Commissioners, the Sheriff, the County Administrator, and municipal Health Officers and representatives from 15 communities in Sullivan County and surrounding.

The Public Health Region is a collaborative of municipalities and health and human service agencies surrounding the service areas of Valley Regional Hospital and New London Hospital. The collaborative creates consistent public health messages and programs, works to ensure that the region is prepared for health emergencies and strives to help people live healthier lives.

At the dinner event, McAuliff recognized Kristin Wood who has been hired in January as public health program assistant. Wood has completed her BS in health sciences from Colby-Sawyer College and looks forward to working on regional health emergency plans. Dr. Donald Bent, health officer for the town of New London, was recognized with a wooden plaque, signifying his dedication and significant number of hours devoted to service with the Regional Coordination Committee. Also recognized for their contribution and service was Heather Rousseau, director of Infection Control at Valley Regional Hospital. McAuliff also announced the region's growing relationship with the Claremont-Newport Healthy Homes Committee, and the development of a new Healthy Homes logo.

Achievements of the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) were also celebrated. Jennifer Frenette, Region I Medical Reserve Corps coordinator of the Office of the Civilian Volunteer Medical Reserve Corps / U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, opened the evening with words of recognition, remarking how greatly the Public Health Region has grown in its ability to provide health emergency preparedness resources to the community.

The Medical Reserve Corps' work to build healthier communi-



**COURTESY PHOTO**

Curtis Metger and Jennifer Frenette were among the attendees at the Greater Sullivan County Public Health Region's third annual January Kick-off and Recognition Dinner at the Common Man Restaurant in Claremont, Thursday, Jan. 20.

ties included over 940 hours of volunteer time put in by MRC members to vaccinate more than 3,000 people in Greater Sullivan County against H1N1 in January and February of 2010. Frenette echoed that she is proud of the region's accomplishments.

The Medical Reserve Corps will welcome new members during an orientation breakfast on Feb. 18 in Newport. If you would like to help your community in an emergency and are interested in joining the MRC please contact Jessica McAuliff at [mrc@sullivan-countynh.gov](mailto:mrc@sullivan-countynh.gov) or call (603) 398-2222.

Visit the PH Region web site at [www.sullivan-countynh.gov/publichealth](http://www.sullivan-countynh.gov/publichealth) to find out more about Medical Reserve Corps, the Healthy Homes Committee, recent state DHHS updates and other useful health information.