

GEORGE LATIMER, Westchester County Executive

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NOMINATIONS NEEDED FOR 2020 WESTCHESTER COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH AWARDS *Westchester County Board of Health to Recognize Adult and Youth Volunteers*

(White Plains, NY) – The Westchester County Board of Health is now seeking nominations for the 2020 Public Health Service Awards. The Board wants to recognize adults, young people and not-for-profit programs that demonstrate creativity and commitment in their efforts to improve public health in Westchester.

The Board encourages community leaders, healthcare professionals, educators and residents to nominate worthy people or programs by February 10 using the nomination forms at www.westchestergov.com/health

“Talented and selfless people work hard every day to make our communities healthier,” said Robert Baker, MD, president of the Westchester County Board of Health. “By nominating these volunteers for recognition, you can help inspire others to join our efforts to promote and protect public health in Westchester.”

The Dr Harold Keltz Distinguished Public Health Service Award is presented annually to a person or community-based organization, whose efforts have made an extraordinary contribution to the public health of Westchester residents but who is not professionally engaged in public health work.

The J.R. Tesone Youth Public Health Service Award is an annual award to a student up to age 21 for his or her creative contribution to public health in Westchester. The award was created in 2014 in memory of J.R. Tesone, a Board of Health member with a lifelong commitment to Westchester children.

The Board also will highlight the compassion, creativity and commitment demonstrated by a select group of nominees, who will be named **Public Health Honorees**.

These awards will be announced and presented in April to spotlight National Public Health Week, and the honorees and their achievements will be featured on the health department’s web pages. Recent youthful winners have promoted youth awareness of the dangers of vaping, advocated for restrictions on tobacco sales,

promoted awareness of the opioid crisis on campus or increased sustainability and Earth Day programming, advocated for children affected by cancer or created an app to foster communication between teens with Type 1 diabetes. Adult volunteers were recognized recently for promoting awareness of mental health and addiction among young people, promoting the construction and preservation of affordable housing and advocating for comprehensive mental health care for low-income residents. Non-profit programs also have been selected for their work to reduce health disparities, improve health literacy, and improve access to care.

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About Westchester County

Westchester County, located in the heart of the historic Hudson Valley, covers 500 square miles and has a population of just under a million. Originally home to Native Americans, who were members of the Lenape tribe, it is today a rich mix of many cultures and landscapes. The County is a blend of bustling cities, quaint villages and picturesque towns as well as open spaces and a network of beautiful parks. Westchester is made up of 6 cities, 19 towns and 20 villages. Westchester County is known for top-notch public schools, and a high quality of life. The County is also an intellectual capital, boasting a highly educated workforce, competitive colleges and universities, Fortune 500 companies, world changing non-profits, and cutting-edge research centers. Westchester is led by County Executive George Latimer, who took office in January 2018 as the ninth County Executive. Using inclusion and openness as a foreground, Latimer is fighting to make Westchester a destination for all people to live, work and enjoy. Learn more about Westchester County by visiting www.westchestergov.com

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