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HEALTH
DEPARTMENT
of Northwest Michigan

**Health Department of Northwest Michigan congratulates Mary Martinchek on retirement
after 34 years of service**

CHARLEVOIX, Mich. – Mary Martinchek recently retired after 34 years of service at the Health Department of Northwest Michigan. During her tenure, she served as a Public Health Nurse, Family Health County Coordinator, and a Family Health Supervisor.

Mary is well known around the health department and the community for her passion for children’s health. Her kind, empathetic, and respectful approach with families expecting a baby or caring for small children allowed her to work in partnership with families, leading to healthier lives for thousands of mothers and children. In addition, many in our community view Mary as a knowledgeable and trusted resource related to child abuse prevention. Her work with the Child Abuse Prevention & Education Council led to increased awareness and understanding of trauma and its effects on our children and our larger community.

Mary’s belief in the importance of social justice, particularly for Children with Special Health Care Needs, empowered her to be a strong advocate for families at the local and state level. On behalf of these families, she advocated for access to needed adaptive equipment, accommodations at school, special medications, and ultimately to change systems to ensure access to specialty care for children with rare diseases.

Mary’s influence is felt inside the health department as well. Many health department nurses and supervisors transitioned into their public health roles under Mary’s mentorship. Her commitment to quality service set an example for staff in every program, and led to outstanding program reviews from the Michigan Department of Health & Human Services and Healthy Families America.

Mary’s Public Health Nursing practice embodied the heart, soul, and scientific application of Public Health Nursing. While she will certainly be missed, everyone at the health department congratulates her on a well-deserved retirement. The Board of Health unanimously approved a resolution thanking Mary for her many years of service and extending best wishes for a long and happy retirement.

The Health Department of Northwest Michigan is mandated by the Michigan Public Health Code to promote wellness, prevent disease, provide quality healthcare, address health problems of vulnerable populations, and protect the environment for the residents and visitors of Antrim, Charlevoix, Emmet, and Otsego counties.

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