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New Hope Community Rolls Up Its Sleeves for Covid-19 Vaccine

Loch Sheldrake, NY (December 31, 2020): December 30th was no ordinary Wednesday for some extraordinary people in Sullivan County. They joined a small group of nurses and staff from New Hope Community and lined up at Garnet Health Medical Center Catskills to begin receiving Covid-19 vaccines. New Hope Community, which supports individuals who have intellectual and other developmental disabilities, has become one of the first human services/disabilities organizations in the region to offer its residents protection from the easily spread Covid-19 virus.

“We are grateful to have this opportunity to take a giant step toward prevention by taking part in this Phase 1A of the vaccine program. Garnet Health is a valued community partner that continues to serve as our Medical Director and provide us with excellent medical care and holistic health services,” said Debbie McGinness, Chief Executive Officer, New Hope Community. “That relationship creates a comfort level for all of us, especially the residents of our on-campus and community residences who rolled up their sleeves to beat this pandemic.”

As cases in the state and region surged over the past few weeks, New Hope Community has been eagerly awaiting the vaccine’s arrival and preparing its staff and individuals. This tremendous logistical effort was led by Karen Kerendian, Director of Health Services and Karen Russell, Chief Operating Officer at NHC, who kept everyone, including family members, informed and involved in the process. “They have been a tremendous resource for all of us and we are thankful to have their knowledge and leadership to guide us.”

Garnet Health has carved out additional days the first week of January to vaccinate hundreds of additional individuals and staff to eliminate the potential for transmission of the virus. The medical teams will also administer the required second round of vaccinations in a few weeks’ time.

“This vaccination roll-out speaks to the value and impact of strong community partnerships. We are so thankful for this level of collaboration and are thrilled to know our New Hope Community residents and our essential staff will have protection against Covid-19. This allows us to move into 2021 with a more stable state of health and with true hope in our hearts,” McGinness said.

PHOTO CAPTIONS

Assorted photos available.

Caption: Residents of New Hope Community rolled up their sleeves to become among the first in the region to receive Covid-19 vaccines at Garnet Health Medical Center Catskills.

Individual Photos

NHC Vaccine Photo 1. (woman with blue/green fleece jacket holding sticker) New Hope Community resident Sandy proudly shows off her sticker after receiving her Covid-19 vaccine.

NHC Vaccine Photo 2. Photo (man with glasses Cowboys T-shirt and red shorts): New Hope Community resident, Fred, receives a Covid-19 vaccine and does his part to help promote good health.

About New Hope Community

New Hope Community is a not-for-profit human services organization providing supports for individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities. Established in 1975 to serve as a nurturing and caring alternative to large institutions which were found to have violated the most basic human rights and conditions, New Hope Community has become recognized as a leading provider in the human services field. In January 2020, New Hope Community merged with Select Human Services, Inc. (SHS) of Pleasantville, NY, a not-for-profit voluntary agency providing services in Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties. New Hope Community's breadth of services includes clinical and nursing care, residential services, day programming, community habilitation, self-direction, support brokers, service navigators, education, recreation and leisure activities, a robust supported employment program, summer programs for youths, and so much more. New Hope Community has always maintained a person-centered approach toward enhancing the lives of people with disabilities and actively advocates for individual choice in a person's efforts to live, work and participate fully in his or her community. New Hope Community and SHS, combined, provide services to over 1,000 people and employ more than 1,200 staff.

Learn more at www.newhopecommunity.org

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