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## THE CHAUTAUQUA CENTER GRAND OPENING RIBBON-CUTTING WAS WELL RECEIVED

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Dunkirk, New York – The Chautauqua Center was joined by Congressman Thomas Reed's office, Assemblyman Andrew Goodell, County Executive Vince Horrigan, several State, Regional and Community Leaders as well as members from the Community to commemorate their 1 year Grand Opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 319 Central Avenue, Dunkirk on Friday, 5/16. The Center's Chief Executive Officer, Michael Pease, welcomed all to the event and expressed his gratitude to those present as well as those not able to be there. "The collective vision of organizations like the Community Health Care Association of New York State, the Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, Chautauqua County Health Network along with local, state and federal representatives and an engaged community board of directors enabled The Chautauqua Center to become a reality. During our first year we grew much faster than anticipated as a direct result of the strong partnerships and collaborations we have with each of you."

Congressman's Reed's Office presented the Center with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition during the celebration. Congressman Thomas Reed's office, Jaqueline Chiarot, "Thank you to all the staff and partners who put this together. We are a family oriented community in Chautauqua County and we need this Health Center. Because of this Center 2500 people are healthier." Further, Assemblyman Andrew Goodell mentioned, "This initiative which brings Primary Care services is absolutely critical to the healthcare of Chautauqua County."

Vince Horrigan, County Executive, gave a short speech about the importance of the center as well. "This Center is exactly what's going to make Chautauqua County a strong community that is needs; healthy people. It's about access to care and quality service."

The Health Foundation for Western and Central New York was an integral partner in completing a needs assessment and application to get the center open. Ann Monroe, Health Foundation for Western and Central New York, "The Foundation worked very closely with the Center and others in the region to maximize the effectiveness of the Center. TCC has served so many individuals in a short period, it's a testament to the work that has been done."

Rebecca Gage, Community Health Care Association of New York State, offered a few words as well "CCHANYS is very proud of the hard work that has been done here in Chautauqua County and it is very nice to have this Health Center in our family. We have personally supported the staff here at TCC and will continue that relationship."

TCC is open for all patients regardless of their insured status, race, sex, language or age. It offers sliding fee discounts to low income individuals and families. Additionally, TCC will assist individuals to identify and enroll in available health insurance plan options through the NYS Plan of Health Marketplace to include Medicaid and Child Health Plus.

Since opening, the Center serves more than 2500 patients. TCC offers same day appointments and has evening hours four days per week with plans to eventually open on Saturdays. Watch for our monthly Health Awareness Events that are open to all community members.