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HealthMatch recruits doctor to Ellenville/Wawarsing

ELLENVILLE — Many rural communities across New York state, and the nation, face the same problem — few or no primary care doctors. The Ellenville/Wawarsing community recently took an innovative approach to the problem and successfully recruited Dr. Kristina Ursitti, a family physician.

HealthMatch is a service of Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center, which assists communities in the establishment of local recruitment incentive programs and the recruitment of health professionals.

The Ellenville/Wawarsing HealthMatch project raised more than \$200,000 from local residents and businesses to provide financial incentives to potential physician candidates.

Through collaborations with Ellenville Regional Hospital, the Institute for Family Health, Greater Wawarsing Local Development Corp., Catskill Hudson AHEC and Provident Bank, the HealthMatch project was able to provide Ursitti with a down payment to purchase her home in the community and a grant to lower her first-year mortgage payments.

In exchange, Ursitti signed an agreement to stay in the community for a minimum of five years. She will be employed by the Institute for Family Health at the Ellenville Family Health

"I am so happy to be a part of this awesome community," said Ursitti. "I always dreamed of being like 'Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman,' and that dream has become a reality for me."