



NEWS RELEASE

June 20, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Katherine Doyle
Catskill Hudson AHEC
kdoyle@chahec.org
(845) 883-7260

Billy's Medical Adventures Demystifies Children's Health Screenings

Health screenings often provoke anxiety and fearful thoughts for many pre-school and elementary-age children who are unfamiliar with the process. In an attempt to alleviate their apprehension and make them feel more comfortable with office visits and medical staff in general, Catskill Hudson Area Health Education Center (AHEC) created "Billy's Medical Adventures" to demonstrate routine medical exams through puppet play. Each puppet show depicts a different health screening that children may experience so that they will be able to recognize various health professionals and understand what it is they do.

Recently, Catskill Hudson AHEC conducted a contest to award a complete "Billy's Medical Adventures" program to a non-profit organization whose services benefits the education, health, or well-being of children who reside within the Catskill Hudson AHEC region. At the end of the application process, The Autism Connection of Greene County, which serves children and families who are affected by Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), was selected to receive the program because of their compelling submission.

"Children with ASD experience extraordinary anxiety with unfamiliar situations. They also have a keen memory for 'traumatic' events" stated Anna Papadakis, President of The Autism Connection of Greene County. "Utilizing 'Billy's Medical Adventures' will be a very valuable tool to educate them about the occurrences and medical visits."

It was apparent that Billy's Medical Adventures would have a positive impact within The Autism Connection of Greene County's community. However, it was also evident that, if possible, additional programs should be awarded to other commendable applicants to support their important missions. Therefore, additional programs were awarded to Astor Services for Families and Children, Head Start of Rockland, Inc., and New Paltz Rescue Squad.

Catskill Hudson AHEC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to address regional healthcare workforce shortages through education and collaborative community relationships to assist students, career seekers, and health professionals.

For additional information on Catskill Hudson AHEC programs, please visit www.CHAHEC.org.



*Children interact through Billy's Medical Adventures
at Head Start of Rockland*

—###—