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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NYS Department of Health Commissioner, Dr. Richard Daines attends  
WIC Appreciation Day Celebrated on June 4, 2010**

Brewster, NY – Fun, games, information and smiles were part of Putnam County WIC Appreciation Day celebrated on Friday, June 4<sup>th</sup> at Markel Park in Brewster. WIC participants from all over Putnam County came to celebrate this happy event. Attendees ate delicious food donated by local merchants, were given free health information and participated in games and other fun activities.

Surprise guest, Dr. Richard Daines, Commissioner for the New York State Department of Health, attended the festivities with Putnam Health Commissioner, Dr. Sherlita Amler.

Both physicians were happy to share the event with over 100 mothers and children.

The WIC Program offers nutritious foods and infant formula for low-income families. For over 22 years, WIC has delivered nutritional counseling and healthy foods to families during the critical developmental times of pregnancy and early childhood.

WIC Director, Lorraine Ciaiola, R.D. commented that WIC staff worked hard to coordinate the event to honor local WIC participants. Dr. Sherlita Amler, Commissioner of Health, agreed and stated she is an avid supporter of the WIC Program and thought the WIC Appreciation Day celebration was a terrific way to honor the efforts of participants trying to provide good nutrition to their children. Alice DuBon, PNP, the Health Department's Immunization Coordinator, was on hand to provide information on immunizations and lead poisoning prevention.

The WIC Program is a part of the Putnam County Department of Health with offices located at the Department of Health, 1 Geneva Road, Brewster (845) 278-6678 and 121 Main Street, Brewster (845) 278-9204. Any New York resident is welcome to apply for WIC by calling the above numbers during normal office hours. Applicants will be screened for eligibility for the Program.

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