

Celebrating the Retirement of **DR. GEORGIA HEISE**

Written by Lindsey Tirey

After a remarkable career dedicated to improving the health and well-being of our communities, Three Rivers District Health Department proudly recognizes and celebrates the retirement of Dr. Georgia Heise at the end of July.

For more than two decades, Dr. Heise has served as a visionary leader in public health, guiding Three Rivers District Health Department through periods of growth, innovation, and transformation. Under her leadership, the department became one of the first local health departments in the nation to achieve accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board, setting a standard of excellence that continues to benefit the residents of Carroll, Gallatin, Owen, and Pendleton counties today.

Dr. Heise's impact extends far beyond our district.

Throughout her career, she has been recognized as a respected leader at the state and national levels, serving in leadership roles with numerous public health organizations and advocating for policies and practices that strengthen public health systems across the country. Her passion for accreditation, quality improvement, workforce development, and community health has left a lasting mark on the profession.

While her professional accomplishments are extensive, those who have worked alongside Dr. Heise know that her greatest legacy lies in the relationships she built and the people she inspired. She has served as a mentor, teacher, and champion for countless public health professionals, encouraging others to lead with integrity, compassion, and a commitment to service.

As Dr. Heise begins this well-earned new chapter, we express our sincere gratitude for her years of dedicated service and leadership. Her vision has helped shape Three Rivers District Health Department into the strong and respected organization it is today, and her influence will continue to be felt for years to come. Please join us in congratulating Dr. Georgia Heise on her retirement and thanking her for a lifetime of service to public health. We wish her happiness, good health, and many exciting adventures in the years ahead.

Thank you, Dr. Heise, for your extraordinary leadership and lasting contributions to our communities.



Celebrating the Retirement of **PATTY GREENE, RN**

Written by Lyndsi McNally



Three Rivers has been a part of my life for 32 years. As long as I can remember, the health department has been a daily topic of conversation. I grew up hearing about pranks played on unknowing victims, hilarious “oopsies,” and many, MANY celebrations accompanied by homemade birthday cakes and rooms full of comrades. I even remember the heavy days, like the loss of one of my mom’s close coworkers and friends at a young age. Growing up, I knew all these things were a massive part of her life, and I knew that’s where she vanished to every day. In fact, I called the Carroll County clinic every single afternoon the second I stepped off the school bus just to let her know I was home.

When she got home around 5:30, she’d immediately switch gears to cook supper, help with homework, tackle laundry, and handle everything in between. She tried her absolute best not to let work dictate her home life. But now that I also work at Three Rivers, I have firsthand knowledge of just how hard

it is to shut off the public health brain and switch to the home brain. It is virtually impossible, and honestly, thank God for that! (Though, I’m still waiting for her to give me a pass on doing my own homework). My mom chose public health because it is truly her calling. She didn’t become a millionaire in dollars, but her dividends came in lives changed, and you simply can’t put a price on that. To this day, people still tell me about how she gave them their childhood shots and made them feel so comfortable. As a nurse, she wanted to see children taken care of and thriving, and she made sure every single kid felt special when they walked into the clinic. She was always patient and kind, even with the more “challenging” patients, because she knew they were the ones who needed that love and attention the most.

When she moved into the HANDS program, I believe that was her moment to shine. She believed in that program from Day 1. She took her clinical knowledge, combined it with her experience raising her own children (which deserved a medal on its own), and intertwined it all into her new role. By pulling from her personal life experiences, she helped mold the HANDS program not just for Three Rivers, but for the entire state of Kentucky. The countless cohorts and committees she has served on have leaned heavily on her expertise.

Patty has left an indelible mark on this district and the HANDS program, setting the bar for excellence and professionalism. On a personal note, I deeply appreciate the guidance she has given me, not just my whole life as my Momma, but now as a friend and colleague. Navigating professional boundaries when your coworker is also the woman who grounded you in high school is a unique art form, but the advice she has given me as a professional has truly shaped me, and it will continue to guide me for the rest of my years here.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Patricia, for your incredible service. You deserve this next chapter. I love you more than the last number.

Celebrating the Retirement of **DON JACOBS**

Written by Justin Pittman

When Don Jacobs started his career in 1998, he was hired as an Environmentalist/clerk/educator at the Bracken County Health Department. He was, and still is, the only Environmental Health professional that I know that could legit discuss WIC enrollment with you. In 2005, TRD found its way to Don when he was recruited for 3 areas of part time focus: Environmental Health/Environmental education/Public Health Preparedness. As time evolved and staffing did as well, Don took on full-time Public Health Preparedness, absorbing the Cities Readiness Initiative and the Medical Reserve Corps coordinator responsibilities, while maintaining Environmental education activities. His efforts in Environmental education were rewarded in 2011, when he received the Kentucky Registered Sanitarian Trainers Award from the Kentucky Association of Milk, Food and Environmental Sanitarians for his roles in a multitude of subject areas. He had a significant role during the 2009 H1N1 response and was key in developing mass vaccination point of dispensing (POD) plans that Three Rivers still has in very similar form today, demonstrating them once again in the 2020 COVID-19 response. In 2016, after over 10 years away from Environmental Health daily activities, once again, time evolved and Don did as well, leaving his Public Health Preparedness role and taking on full-time Environmental Health in Pendleton County. Since he decided to go back to Environmental Health after a 10-year hiatus, he thought why not go be President of Kentucky Environmental Health Association and served 3 years, along with multiple years on the Board of Directors for the state-wide organization. In 2019, when vector-borne disease became a Public Health priority, Don took on roles for mosquito trapping, identification, control and surveillance to assist with Statewide efforts, earning a Kentucky Department of Agriculture Pesticide Application license in the process. His roots delving into both Environmental Health and Preparedness have been evident in his career during countless emergency responses within our communities and additionally within Kentucky Department for Public Health ESF8 strike team multi-day deployments to both Western Kentucky during the ice storm of 2009 and South Florida following Hurricane Ian in 2022 in some entirely austere conditions. When I asked him if he was ok with this type of emergency response work, his answer: "Good excuse to go camping". He has served as the local Pendleton County Emergency Operations Center ESF-8 lead representative for over 2 decades and has played a crucial role in local exercises and events.



It was this knowledge of Public Health planning and emergency operation that also made him an invaluable asset during the run of NASCAR at Kentucky Speedway from 2011-2019. During that timeframe, Don was a critical component in developing the (still in use) Statewide Environmental Health Strike Team deployment plans and co-represented Three Rivers in Texas for a National Model Practice Award in addition to multiple State Association Awards, including a Kentucky Public Health Commissioner's Award, within 2 years for those operations. Through a career of achievements and remarkable versatility, Don has proven to be a true Public Health Warrior, an invaluable team member, a wealth of knowledge, a calm thinker in the fog of chaos, a voice of reason in a sea of regulations and a critical partner to the communities he has served. On top of that, he's been a good friend to many people and is guaranteed to raise a good laugh. Through all the blood, sweat and grit, I could not imagine my career without this guy, and I am truly thankful for all of his sacrifices. Congrats on retirement Sir!

Celebrating the Retirement of **SUSAN SUTHERLAND**

“We want to thank Susan Sutherland for her dedicated service as a HANDS Assessment Home Visitor. Her commitment to supporting children and families has made a lasting impact on the communities we serve. Her kind and caring demeanor has helped families take important first steps towards achieving their goals. Thank you Susan, for your service, your kindness, and the difference you have made in the lives of so many families. We are grateful for your contribution to the HANDS program and wish you all the best in the future.”

-Patty Greene

“Congratulations on retirement! Thank you for your dedication, compassion and support you have provided for our communities the past 4 years. You have been a mentor and friend to our HANDS team. As much as you will be missed, we wish you the happiest, most relaxing, adventurous retirement. Thank you for everything!”

-Arielle Rosenbaum

“We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Susan for the dedication, compassion, and guidance she has shared throughout her time with the HANDS program. Susan brought with her years of knowledge, experience, and unwavering support, serving as both an inspiration to her colleagues and a trusted resource for the families she worked with.

Throughout her time with HANDS, she made a lasting difference by connecting countless families with valuable resources, offering encouragement, and helping parents build strong foundations for their children. Her commitment to serving our community has left a meaningful impact that will be felt for years to come.

We are incredibly grateful for all she has contributed and wish her nothing but happiness and success in this next chapter. Thank you, Susan, for everything you have done!”

-Laura Miles



Three Rivers Revue

WELCOME!



Jessica Smoot, Owen County Community Health Worker



Anniston Phillips, Environmental Intern

STAFF UPDATES

Arielle Rosenbaum is the new HANDS Manager.

Lindsey Tirey is the new TRDHD Public Health Director.

Meagan Meredith is the new Health Strategy & Accreditation Manager.

Mimi Quiroz is no longer with Three Rivers.

SPLASH'S SUMMER BASH

The Health Strategy team hosted their annual Summer Bashes in June. Carroll County's summer bash was held on June 11th at General Butler State Park. There was an estimated 75 attendees who enjoyed pin ball, a duck pond, mini golf, connect four, and more fun activities. They also got to enter for a chance to win a multitude of door prizes. Owen County's Summer Bash was held on June 18th in partnership with Owen County Drug Prevention Coalition to celebrate their 10th year of service. There was around 150 attendees who enjoyed the touch-a-trucks, digging up

fossils, relay races and the foam/bubble machine. Gallatin County's Summer Bash was on June 23rd. Roughly 120 youth attended and participated in fishing, splash zone, and many more fun activities. Pendleton County's Summer Bash will be held on Saturday, July 11th, at Kincaid Lake State Park. The Health Strategy team extends a huge thank you to all the vendors and host sites who played a huge part in the events' success!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

July

- 8 - Layney Pittman
- 10 - Sarah Clifton
- 12 - Angie Scott
- 14 - Tammy Thompson
- 15 - Sherry Fitzgerald
- 16 - Danielle Tracy
- 28 - Korynn Marshall

August

- 1 - Leigh Hawkins, Linde Eaton
- 8 - Lyndsi McNally
- 13 - Ashley Badar
- 14 - Abby Cordray
- 18 - Amanda Whobrey
- 20 - Kendall O'Toole
- 27 - Rubi Juarez
- 30 - Meredith Lewis

September

- 2 - Justin Pittman
- 7 - Georgia Heise

HAPPY WORKIVERSARY!

July

- 7 years - Alicia Johnson, Kendall O'Toole
- 4 years - Arielle Rosenbaum, Meagan Meredith
- 1 year - Jackie Vititoe

August

- 18 years - Michelle Wilburn
- 15 years - Tammy Thompson
- 2 years - Vicky Vuocolo
- 1 year - Summer Thomas, Rubi Juarez

September

- 24 years - Ashley Froman, Rachele Cobb
- 21 years - Greg Ramey
- 14 years - Becky Messmer*
- 9 years - Cynthia Hickey*
- 5 years - Amelia Ferguson
- 4 years - Amber Tanner*
- 3 years - Rachel Massie
- 2 years - Cindy Beckham
- 1 year - Angie Scott
- *denotes total YOS

OUT AND ABOUT



The HANDS team attended the biennial HANDS Academy in late April at Heritage Bank Center in Lexington. This amazing opportunity provided home visitors with inspiration, motivation, and encouragement as they connected with colleagues from across

the state. Thanks to the Federal Special Project Grant, HANDS staff were able to relax, recharge, and regenerate while participating in valuable learning experiences and engaging sessions. The support provided through the grant helped make this year's academy the largest-attended HANDS Academy to date.

Stronger Together: Nurses For A Healthier Kentucky

Embodying the spirit of unity, nurses from Three Rivers District Health Department joined diverse public health experts in Lexington on May 18-19 for the 2026 Kentucky Public Health Nursing Conference.

Centering on the theme "Stronger Together," the event provided a comprehensive platform to explore pressing issues, including pharmacology, population health, rural health transformation, and harm reduction. Our team spent two days engaging in interactive workshops, fostering meaningful partnerships, and sharing innovative strategies to address critical health challenges. This

valuable continuing education empowers our nursing staff to bring fresh expertise and evidence-based care back home to deliver the highest quality services to our local communities. Welcome back, team!



CONGRATS TO...

Amelia Ferguson, who received her Master's degree from Morehead State University in May. She is also expecting a baby boy in October.

Amber Tanner, who graduated from KY-PHELI in May.

Patty Greene, who retired in June.

Yvonne Karsner, who welcomed her first great grandbaby, Stetson Duane, in June.

Susan Sutherland, who retired in June.

Dr. Georgia Heise, who retires in July.

Don Jacobs, who retires in July.

Justin Pittman, who retires in September.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO...

April DeFalco, who lost her uncle in April.

Yvonne Karsner, who lost her father in-law in June.

Arielle Rosenbaum, who lost her grandmother in June.

Alicia Johnson who lost her grandfather in July.

SPLASH CARDS

Angie Tudor (2)
Yvonne Karsner
Dawn Hall
Layney Pittman
Leigh Hawkins
Cassie Woodward
Summer Thomas
Becky Messmer
Oralia Olguin



On June 6 volunteers gathered for The 2nd Annual Boo (Singleton) Project. The Boo Project is a community-driven initiative in Pendleton County, Kentucky, created to honor the legacy of Robert "Boo" Singleton, a longtime

environmentalist and volunteer who died in April 2025 while working to clean flood debris from the Licking River. TRDHD assisted the Butler Lions Club in writing the Interact for Health sponsorship to feed the Volunteers. They were awarded \$1,310.00 and fed 52 volunteers

Pictured right, **Abby McClelland** and **Cassie Woodward** made the front page of the Gallatin County News for their work in putting out pinwheels in front of the clinic in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April.

The Sweet Owen Hub hosted an Open House on May 21st with nearly 50 in attendance. Monterey Baptist Church helped sponsor refreshments, Owen County Chamber of Commerce helped with advertising, and many TRD staff supported us by just showing up. Several community members including city and county government officials attended.



Ribbons for a cause

Three Rivers District Health Department workers Cassie Woodward and Abby McClelland placed blue ribbons in front of their office in Warsaw on Monday. The ribbons are a reminder that April is Childhood Abuse Prevention Month. Photo by [unclear]



FLUORIDE VARNISH TRAINING

The nurses participated in Fluoride Varnish training on June 10th, which complements our Maternal Child and Oral Health Package. The primary objective of offering this service is to enhance oral health outcomes for children and women of childbearing age in Kentucky. This will be achieved through evidence-based oral health education and preventive outreach in both community and classroom environments.



THREE RIVERS GIVES BACK



Three Rivers District Health Department is hosting a Hygiene Item Drive Competition throughout July. Clinics will collect hygiene items to donate to a local organization.

How to Help:

Drop off new hygiene items like deodorant, soap, feminine products, baby care essentials, toothbrushes, etc. at any of our health centers, or the Sweet Owen Hub, from July 1 to July 31.

Let's spread the word and make a difference!

QI CORNER

By Rachel Massie, QI Coordinator

Quality Improvement: Making Good Work Even Better

Quality Improvement (QI) is about taking a closer look at how we do our work and finding practical ways to make it easier, more effective, and more impactful. It focuses on small, manageable changes rather than big overhauls because even minor adjustments can lead to better outcomes over time. Whether it's improving a process, reducing delays, or making tasks more user-friendly, QI helps us move from "this works" to "this works even better."

A key part of QI is testing ideas before fully implementing them. By trying small changes, learning from the results, and refining our approach, we can build solutions that actually work. This continuous cycle of improvement encourages teamwork, creativity, and problem-solving across all roles. At the end of the day, QI is everyone's responsibility and works best when everyone is involved. So, if you see an opportunity for improvement, speak up: **small ideas can lead to big impact.**

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: RHEA “MICHELLE” WILBURN



Job Title & Location: Informatics Manager, Remote
How long have you worked at TRDHD? 18 years in August
Educational Background: Paralegal, AAS
Certified Data Analytics, Cornell University SC Johnson College of Business
Where are you from? Primarily resided in Northern Ky, including Boone, Kenton, and Owen Counties
Family: I have two grown children, Carter and Spencer, of which are both operating and running private businesses, one contracting primarily with Amazon, and the other providing security. I’ve got my little Piper who is a Jax Russel Mixed puppy that is the most awesome dog I’ve ever had!
What’s something interesting about you that not many people know? Paddleboarding is one of my favorite activities to do in the summer. Having the pleasure of floating and enjoying the sun along

with a breeze increases the joy we have of this beautiful earth!
What do you do for fun in your free time? I love riding my bike in my free time for the pleasure of exercise and the breeze the speed gives you at the same time. I also love to swim and would enjoy living in an area where I could swim outside year-round!
What was the best concert you’ve attended? Best concerts I have been to, are those smaller ones wherein you have a ginormous orchestra of instrumental players. The detail, quality, and wide band of these events are goosebump inhibitors because of the beauty and complexity of their detailed talents.
What’s your favorite book/movie/TV Show? Favorite book is the Bible which confirms so much of what we see today, giving us hope for the future! Favorite movie – The Jurassic Park movies; Favorite TV show – Lost in Space
Is there anything else you want us to know? I love my job, enjoy solving problems and identifying options to fix processes. Three Rivers has been the best place I have ever worked and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be on this team!

july			W	T	F All Offices Closed (Independence Day) 3	S Independence Day 4
		7 Mammogram Van at St. E (PC)				11 PC Summer Bash Rabies Clinics (CC & GC)
		14 NACCHO Mammogram Van at St. E (PC)	15 NACCHO	16 NACCHO	17 NACCHO	18 Community Baby Shower (GC)
				23 OC Conversation Series (HUB)		25 Ballons & Tunes Festival (PC)
	27 Mammogram Van at TRIAD (GC & OC)		29 What’s Up Wednesday			

august			W	T	F	S
			12 First Day of School (CC, GC, PC)			
			19 First Day of School (OC)			
			26 What's Up Wednesday KACHW Conference	27 KACHW Conference		

september			W	T	F	S
	7 Labor Day - All Offices Closed			3 CCHSP Meeting		
			9 PCCWC Meeting			
			16 OCCHC Meeting			19 Out of the Darkness Walk (CC) Sweet Owen Day (OC)
		22 GCCBHS Meeting			25 Tobacco Festival (CC)	26 Tobacco Festival (CC)

Carroll County Health Center
401 Eleventh St.
Carrollton, KY 41008
(502) 732-6641



Gallatin County Health Center
102 W Pearl St.
Warsaw, KY 41095
(859) 567-2844

Sweet Owen HUB
1005 Hwy 22
Owenton, KY 40359
(502) 484-3425

Owen County Health Center
120 Progress Way
Owenton, KY 40359
(502) 484-5736

District Office
60 Old Monterey Rd.
Owenton, KY 40359
(502) 484-3412

Pendleton County Health Center
329 Hwy 330 W
Falmouth, KY 41040
(859) 654-6985



THREE RIVERS DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT

HYGIENE SUPPLY

2026 Donation Drive

We are collecting NEW/UNUSED items such as the following

Shaving cream	Bar soap	Basic first aid kits
Lotion	Body wash	Hairbrushes
Sunscreen	Shampoo	Combs
Hand sanitizer	Conditioner	Hair ties/elastics
Wet wipes	Deodorant	Hair products
Tissue packs	Toothbrushes	Baby shampoo
Cotton swabs	Toothpaste	Baby Wash
Band-aids	Dental Floss	Diaper cream
Feminine hygiene products	Mouthwash	Baby Wipes
	Razors	Toiletry kits

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Carroll County Health Center

401 11th Street Carrollton, KY

Gallatin County Health Center

102 W Pearl Street Warsaw, KY

The HUB

1005 HWY 22E Owenton, KY

Owen County Health Center

120 Progress Way Owenton, KY

Pendleton County Health Center

329 HWY 330W Falmouth, KY

Items Will Be Collected

July

1-31





THREE RIVERS DISTRICT
HEALTH DEPARTMENT



JOIN US FOR
SUNSHINE DAY



THURSDAY, JULY 9TH



10:00 AM – 12:00 PM



OWEN COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS



3rd Annual
SUNSHINE DAY
★ *at the Fair!* ★

A sensory-friendly carnival
experience designed for
individuals with differing abilities
and sensitivities.



**ENJOY RIDES IN A
CALM, INCLUSIVE
SETTING**



**FREE LUNCH
PROVIDED**



**COME SHARE THE JOY, SMILES, AND
SUNSHINE WITH US!**



#SUNSHINEDAY



#OWENCOUNTYFAIR

SPLASH INTO SUMMER!

Play Hard. Live Healthy -

JULY 11TH

1-3PM | COLOR RUN: STARTS AT 3:30PM

 **Pendleton County Athletic Park**



Community BABY SHOWER

♥ FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS TO 6 MONTHS OLD ♥



**SATURDAY
JULY 18TH**



**FROM
12:00PM
TO 3:00PM**



**AT
702 MAINCROSS STREET
WARSAW, KY 41095**

Join us for a special afternoon
celebrating you and your little one!
Enjoy free gifts, refreshments,
resources, and community support.



*You are
not alone...
we are here
for you!*

Steven Coomer, Senior Pastor

GALLATIN
COMMUNITY CHURCH



SPONSORED BY:
**CHAMPIONS FOR A
DRUG FREE**
GALLATIN COUNTY

NorthKey
COMMUNITY CARE



TOGETHER, WE'RE BUILDING A STRONGER, HEALTHIER COMMUNITY.



RAISING KIDS

A Parent and Caregiver
Conversation Series

We want to hear from **YOU**,

Today...

Your experiences, concerns, and ideas will help shape stronger communities and better support for our kids.



Real conversations.

Real challenges.

Real Change!

We are listening to parents and caregivers across the Three Rivers District about **the challenges kids face today** and how we can better support families.



WHY YOUR VOICE MATTERS

This conversation series is part of our Planet Youth implementation. Your feedback will help us:

- ✓ Better understand youth challenges and parenting concerns
- ✓ Identify what is hard to talk about and what kids are exposed to too soon
- ✓ Shape future parent surveys and support efforts
- ✓ Build stronger, healthier communities together



WE WANT TO TALK ABOUT WHAT MATTERS MOST

Topics include (but are not limited to):

- ✓ What concerns you most about the world kids are growing up in
- ✓ What kids are being exposed to too young
- ✓ What is difficult to talk about with kids and teens
- ✓ Where youth get their information and influence
- ✓ What support and resources parents need



Parents Talk. Kids Play.

Children are welcome! Age-appropriate activities will be available in a separate space during the discussion. Parents/guardians remain responsible for their children.

ALL SESSIONS ARE DISCUSSION-BASED, CONFIDENTIAL, AND GUIDED BY PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS LIKE YOU.



COUNTY

**OWEN
COUNTY**



DATE

**July 23, 2026
6:30pm**



LOCATION

**Sweet Owen Hub
1005 HWY 22 E
Owenton, KY 40359**

INTERESTED?

SCAN TO REGISTER



Your voice. Our Future.



**For more information contact:
Sarah.Young@ky.gov or 502-750-0718**