

APRIL 2026

NEWSLETTER

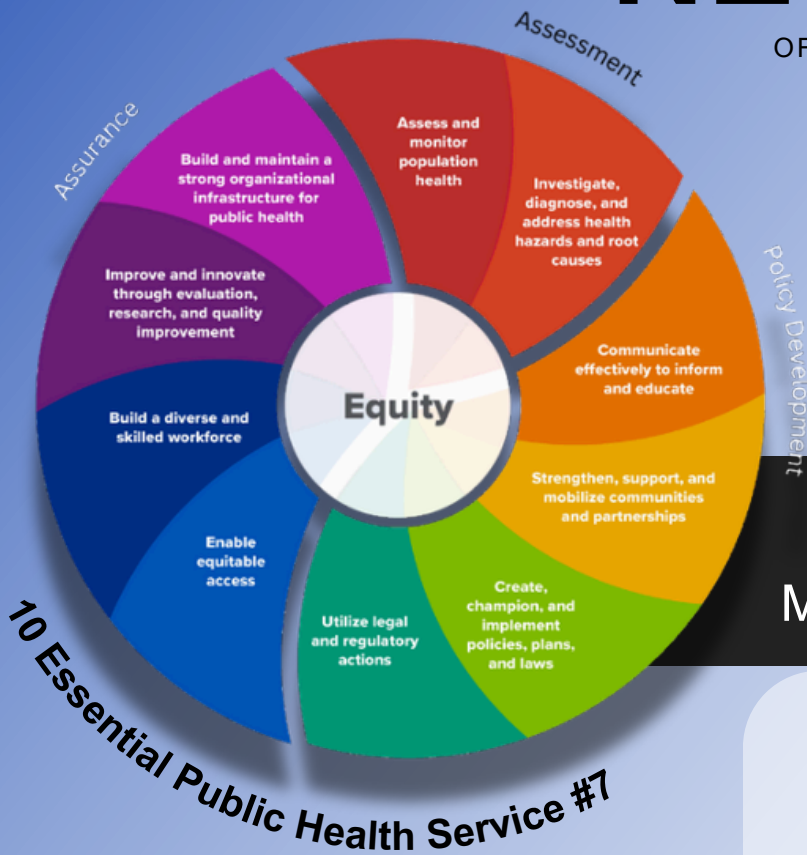
OF THE APPLETON PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

IN THIS ISSUE:

“12 Days of Giving” Donation Drive

The Sunshine Committee

Meet Jamie



VISION: Health for all, together.

MISSION: Facilitate equitable community wellbeing through education, health promotion, and response to public health needs.

“12 Days of Giving” Donation Drive

This past holiday season, the City of Appleton demonstrated the power of collective action through its “12 Days of Giving” donation drive, an initiative that reflects the core values of public health: community connection, equitable access to basic needs, and support for overall well-being.

Across 14 departments, Appleton staff came together to gather approximately \$5,000 worth of essential items such as hygiene products, clothing, and household essentials. These donations directly supported Harbor House Domestic Violence Shelter, Pillars Inc., and the Boys and Girls Club of the Fox Valley, three local agencies that play a vital role in ensuring individuals and families can meet their basic daily needs. Essential items may seem small, but they have a measurable impact on health outcomes for Appleton residents facing economic hardship or housing instability.

The “12 Days of Giving” donation drive was organized by the City’s Sunshine Committee (Community Spotlight, next page), whose dedication to connection and generosity help bring departments together in a shared effort to support the community.

Public health recognizes that stable access to basic necessities is foundational to physical and mental health. By mobilizing the community in a spirit of generosity, the “12 Days of Giving” not only provided immediate support but also strengthened the social support networks that help people thrive.



Community Partner Spotlight: The Sunshine Committee



The Sunshine Committee demonstrates that meaningful connections as City of Appleton employees creates waves of engagement that spread far beyond the walls of City Hall. As an internal, employee-driven group, the Sunshine Committee is dedicated to promoting community-building, teamwork, and a strong sense of belonging within the City of Appleton workforce. Their contributions, from holding uplifting activities to recognition and outreach, help reinforce a workplace culture where people feel valued and connected.

Public health recognizes that well-being extends beyond physical health. Social connection, a sense of belonging, and shared positivity are all protective factors that strengthen mental and emotional resilience. Through their ongoing efforts, including organizing the “12 Days of Giving” donation drive, the Sunshine Committee continues to foster a supportive culture within the City workforce and, ultimately, the community it serves.

When workplaces prioritize morale and connection, it directly influences service quality, collaboration, and community trust. The Sunshine Committee highlights the City’s commitment to not only meeting residents’ needs, but doing so with warmth, empathy, and humanity. The committee is a reminder that public health thrives when kindness is intentional, and when we work together to create a brighter, more connected Appleton.

Meet Jamie

Appleton’s longtime Legal Assistant, Jamie Griesbach, has served the City for nearly 28 years and brings over three decades of experience in the administrative and legal field.

As the backbone of the City Attorney’s Office, Jamie supports attorneys, city staff, residents, and a wide range of external partners. Her work ensures clear communication, efficient processes, and reliable access to legal information, all foundational elements that help government operate in ways that protect community health and well-being.

Jamie shares that she genuinely enjoys all aspects of her role, especially helping colleagues, staying organized, and improving workflow. Beyond her core duties, she embraces “stretch assignments” that strengthen city culture, including the Sunshine Committee, the Culture Team, and her personal favorite, the City Star Awards. Celebrating her colleagues’ contributions brings her tremendous joy and reflects her belief that recognizing people builds a healthier, more connected workforce.

Working in local government, she notes, offers a meaningful way to give back to the community she proudly calls home. Her service reminds us that public health is a team effort, and that dedicated staff make a healthier Appleton possible. Outside of work, Jamie enjoys traveling, cooking, and baking.

Resources

[Board of Health Calendar](#)



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