



## *Employee Spotlight*

# Kristina Paliwoda

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Welcome Back, Kristina!

The Kent County Health Department is excited to welcome back Kristina as our new Community Wellness Director—a familiar face returning with a wealth of experience and a passion for public health. Kristina brings a strong background in nursing and public health, with degrees from the University of Michigan and experience spanning a Federally Qualified Health Center, Network 180, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, and previously, the Kent County Health Department. Her return is a full-circle moment, driven by a desire to use her expertise to make a meaningful impact on the health of Kent County residents.



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In her role, Kristina works closely with the Health Department's leadership team to set priorities, guide resources, and address key public health needs. She also leads programs focused on maternal, infant, and child health, supporting services like home visiting for families, health screenings in schools, case management for children, and access to specialized care.

*"Community wellness is really about prevention and early intervention,"* Kristina shared. *"By identifying health concerns early and supporting families along the way, we help residents live longer, healthier lives while making the most of our resources."*

A big part of that work is collaboration. Kristina emphasizes the importance of strong community partnerships, from schools providing hearing and vision screenings to tens of thousands of students each year, to healthcare providers who connect families with critical services, to organizations supporting refugee health.

These partnerships help ensure care reaches people where they are, at home, in schools, and throughout the community.

Behind the scenes, Kristina says the work is powered by a deeply committed team. *"We have experienced, passionate staff who build strong relationships with families and partners, and deliver high-quality, evidence-based programs tailored to community needs."*

Outside of work, Kristina enjoys international travel, tackling home improvement projects, and spending time outdoors hiking with her Black Lab, Clara. You might also catch a bit of friendly rivalry in her household; she and her husband are proud University of Michigan grads, while their daughter attends The Ohio State University as a student athlete on the crew team.

Please join us in welcoming Kristina back to Kent County!

