

## **Diane Green-El, MD '78 (1952 – 2021)**



Dr. Diane Green-El earned her baccalaureate degree from Brown University, and her medical degree from Upstate Medical University. She completed her residency in pediatrics at the University of Buffalo in 1981 and later that year earned her board certification in pediatrics. In 1995, she completed her graduate studies and earned an MBA from Syracuse University.

Dr. Green-El's successful career as a pediatrician and a health care administrator began when she accepted a position at the Syracuse Community Health Center, launching a 40-year commitment to promote quality health care for all. Her mission, to ensure the highest quality of care for the Health Center's diverse patient population, was evidenced in all of her work. Dr.

Green-El chose pediatrics because she believed every child deserved quality care, but after assuming her role as medical director, she soon found herself promoting quality health care for not only children, but for adults and the elderly, including access to prenatal care for young women and mental health services for those who might otherwise be excluded from care.

During her career in Syracuse, she served multiple terms as Medical Director and later the Chief Clinical Officer. Her work in clinical leadership began as medical director of the Health Center and later she became the first medical director for Total Care, a licensed health maintenance organization specifically designed to insure medically under-served populations. Her experience and expertise in managing a complex ambulatory care system ranged from risk management, quality assurance and utilization management.

Among Dr. Green-El's accomplishments in the community health center arena, was the expansion of primary care services for children and adults. She provided the clinical oversight for the establishment of one of the first daily urgent care programs in the county, called Extended Hours Services. She later guided the organization, expanding the OB GYN department to also include nurse midwives who managed care in the office and deliveries in the hospital. Under her clinical leadership, Syracuse Community Health Center became one of the first to become certified by the then newly reorganized Joint Commission on Health Care Organizations.

Even though her administrative responsibilities were often arduous, Dr. Green-El continued fulfilling her work as a pediatrician, maintaining regular clinical hours in the office, managing a hospital schedule caring for sick children and rounding on newborns. She served as a member of the Medical Alumni Foundation's Board of Directors from 1996 until her passing in 2021.