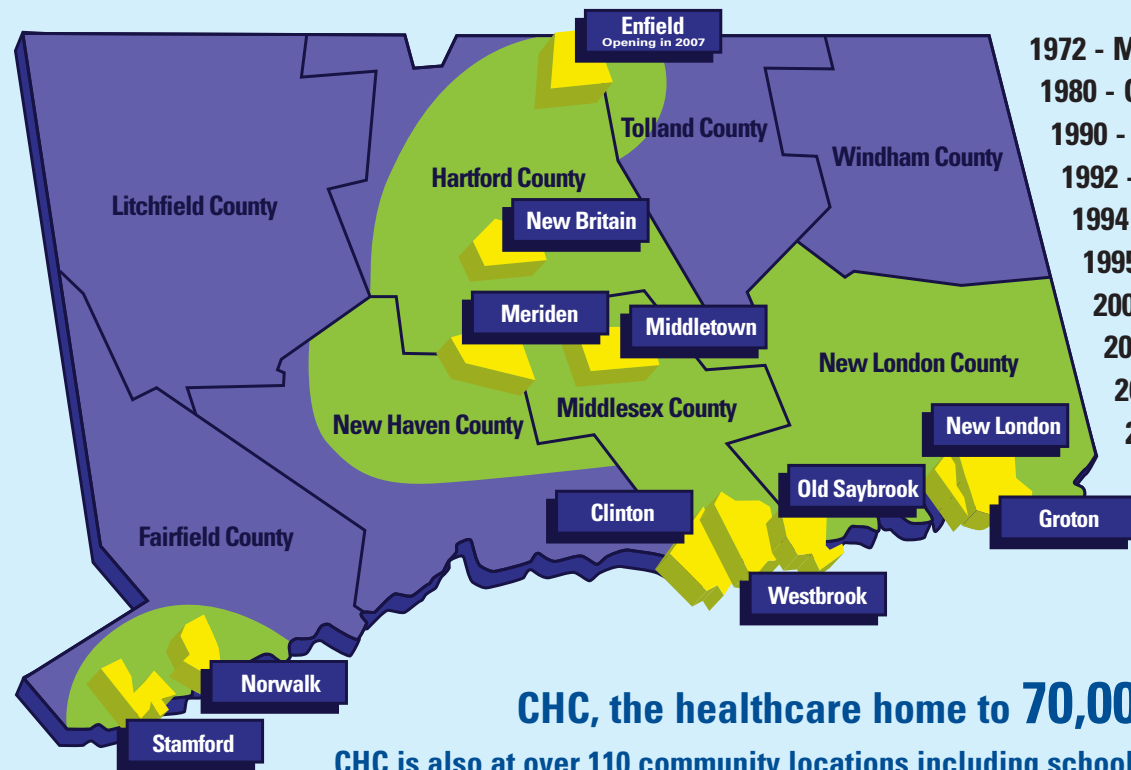


CHC: EXPANDING TO MEET CONNECTICUT'S NEEDS



- 1972 - Middletown
- 1980 - Old Saybrook
- 1990 - Meriden
- 1992 - New London
- 1994 - Groton
- 1995 - New Britain
- 2001 - Clinton
- 2005 - Norwalk
- 2006 - Stamford
- 2007 - Enfield*

CHC, the healthcare home to 70,000 patients.
 CHC is also at over 110 community locations including schools and shelters.



our mission

Community Health Center is a private, non-profit agency providing primary health care and social services. Its quality health care services are available to all, and particularly to those who cannot gain access to such services elsewhere. The Community Health Center takes leadership in promoting interagency cooperation. It is based on consumer control and is committed to ensuring human rights and respecting human dignity; as such, it strives to be a voice and vehicle for social change.

SUMMER '07 NEWSLETTER

CHC Continues to Expand: Opens State-of-the-Art Norwalk Facility



On Thursday, May 31st the residents of Norwalk were introduced to **Norwalk Smiles**, the city's first comprehensive community dental center geared to meeting the oral health needs of area residents. **Norwalk Smiles** is Community Health Center's newest facility, and it was roundly applauded for bringing an outstanding clinical resource to the community. **Congressman Chris Shays, Mayor Moccia, former Mayor Alex Knopp, Council Member Grant** and **Council Member Krummel** were on hand for the "Floss Cutting" at the Grand Opening Ceremony.

In the spring of 2005, the city of Norwalk turned to Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) for help with mandated dental screenings for its young Head-Start students. CHC responded immediately to serve this community. It quickly realized the need was so extensive, it opened a permanent dental clinic right inside the Head-Start building.

Since then, CHC has worked with Norwalk leaders to expand access to dental care for people of all ages. CHC now offers a full scope of dental services, from prevention to restorative care, from pediatrics to senior citizens. Norwalk Smiles is also one of ten sites around the country to be selected for a "SPNS" or Special Project of National Significance grant to develop a model of dental services specifically for HIV patients. Over the coming months, CHC's Norwalk Smiles project will be "going mobile" to bring preventive dental services into local high schools. Community leaders acknowledged the efforts of many people in Norwalk that made this project a reality.

Margaret Flinter, Vice President/ Clinical Director, CHC; Norwalk Mayor Moccia; Mark Masselli, President and CEO, CHC; Adele Gordon, Director, Norwalk Smiles, CHC; Maggie Drozdowski, Dental Director, CHC; Congressman Chris Shays; Former Norwalk Mayor Alex Knopp.

**CHC RESPONDED
 IMMEDIATELY
 TO SERVE THIS
 COMMUNITY**



Serving underserved and uninsured patients at Connecticut's largest network of community health centers.

SUMMER '07 NEWSLETTER



Community Health Center, Inc.

635 Main Street
 Middletown, CT 06457

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Governor Rell authorizes pilot residency program for APRNs; CHC, Inc. will develop country's first program



Left to right standing: Commissioner Robert Galvin, DPH; Rachel Goolnick CHC Inaugural Residency Class; Angela Anthony, CHC Board Member; Margaret Flinter, CHC; Daren Anderson, CHC; Mike Starkowski, DSS; Senator John McKinney; Representative Faith McMahon. Seated: Governor Jodi Rell.

Community Health Center, Inc. developed the model and rationale for this groundbreaking training program as part of its forward-looking intention to ensure that all Connecticut residents have access to a medical home and an expert primary care provider. Throughout the session, CHC was a leading advocate of the legislation, which passed the House and Senate unanimously, which Governor Rell signed into law July 6, 2007.

The legislation, **Public Act 07-219, An Act Establishing a Pilot Family Nurse Practitioner Training Program**, will play a key role in increasing the number of primary care providers expertly trained to meet the needs of thousands of low income individuals who live in underserved areas of the state. Under this program, CHC has created a formal one year residency training program for family nurse practitioners in Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). CHC's goal is to develop the model, which can then be replicated in other FQHCs around Connecticut and the country. The training program, the first of its kind in the country, is designed for newly graduated and certified advanced practice nurses who intend to practice in the complex clinical environment of community health centers.

Preparing expert primary care providers for this type of practice will yield a long-term increase in patients' access to a medical home and a primary care provider. CHC has always been, and will continue to be a lead advocate to deliver quality care to people of all backgrounds, regardless of their financial constraints. The inaugural class of four residents have been selected and begin the Residency in September. CHC thanks **Representative Peggy Sayers** and **House Majority Leader Chris Donovan** for their strong support of this legislation.

CHC: GETTING TO KNOW A COMMUNITY

**GO SEE
AND MEET
THE PEOPLE
FIRSTHAND**

During the month of June CHC staff, fully equipped with water bottles, T-Shirts and walk sheets, canvassed every door within a half mile radius of the new Norwalk Smiles center in Norwalk. "The only way to get to know a community, and to let them know of your services, is to go and meet them where they are" said Sue Greeno, the Coordinator of the activities. Nine canvassers spent 7 hot summer days distributing 3,250 flyers at homes, business, and churches. As a result, over 300 appointments were made at the new Norwalk Smiles dental facility. Congratulations are in order to each of the canvassers and to the citizens of Norwalk for their remarkable hospitality. While CHC, Inc. may be continually expanding, we have never forgotten our main mission that: **every location, every resident and every client gets the highest quality care and is treated with respect.**



Top: Canvas team gathers at the new Norwalk Smiles facility. Bottom: Canvassers hit the streets of Norwalk.



2007 LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

**PROGRESS
HAS BEEN
MADE ON
MANY ISSUES
OF CONCERN**

Throughout the legislative session, CHC's administrative and clinical leaders met with legislators, testified before committees, and wrote position papers on request related to many significant legislative proposals. As the session ended, progress had been made on many issues of concern. CHC looks forward to serving on Councils which are being established to further access to health care in our state.

HEALTHCARE – PA 07-103 Access to Healthcare – This act expands access to health insurance and health care services; promotes the use of health care technology, preventive services, and quality measurement; and creates two entities (HealthFirst Connecticut and Statewide Primary Care authorities) to examine alternative ways to provide health care coverage and primary care, finance insurance coverage, contain health care costs, and improve health care quality. In addition, it makes a number of changes to HUSKY and other public health insurance programs which expands coverage groups and eligibility. The Bill will also support development of an electronic health information network for state funded health care providers. As part of CHC's focus on healthcare workforce issues, CHC also supported the development of electronic license renewal for health care professionals, which will allow data collection and analysis relative to the healthcare workforce.

While specific plans are still in development, the authorization of funds to both the Department of Social Services and the Department of Public Health for community health centers and school based health centers were welcome initiatives, applauded by CHC for the impact they will make on sustaining and expanding health care services for the uninsured and needy populations.

Shown below:
The State Capital Building
in Hartford, CT.



How do we reduce ER visits and increase access to primary care?

CHC, Inc. has always provided after hours emergency call and coverage for its patients. Even that isn't enough to meet our goals of full access. On July 14th, CHC of New Britain became the first of CHC's primary care centers to add Saturday hours to its schedule, and all CHC sites will soon follow. Mark Masselli, CEO, commented "We are very focused on service, access, and convenience for our patients. Many of our patients are unable to get time off from work for health care appointments during the week—we want to remove those barriers to care." Rob Dudley, Medical Director at CHC of New Britain, reported that "patients were thrilled. Just thrilled with the new hours."