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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC. OPENS SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER IN STAMFORD Center to provide medical and dental services for students at Domus' Trailblazers and Stamford academies

STAMFORD, Conn. (January 11, 2011) – Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) has opened a school-based health center at Domus' Trailblazers Academy and Stamford Academy to bring on-site medical and mobile dental care to approximately 300 middle and high school students. The center, located at 83 Lockwood Ave., is the first that CHC has opened in Fairfield County and one of only 20 throughout the state. This week marks the first full school week the center has been in operation.

“Our schools provide kids who’ve been unsuccessful in traditional schools a very comprehensive school experience, including individualized attention, rigorous academics and significant family and behavioral support, but we’ve long lacked the important on-site health care piece,” said Domus Executive Director Michael Duggan, who approached CHC in late 2009 and expressed his interest in providing medical and dental services to the students supported by Domus. “Students dealing with minor health issues will now be able to stay in the building and return to class quickly, missing less instruction, which is critical to helping them regain lost academic ground. The value to our kids and families can’t be overstated.”

The school-based health center provides comprehensive primary care, including immunizations, complete physical examinations, medication management, intervention for acute chronic illnesses and long-term chronic care. Students without health insurance receive free services and are provided assistance in determining their eligibility for a public health insurance program, such as HUSKY. The center is currently staffed by a nurse practitioner and medical assistant. As the need for services grows, a full-time provider will be available throughout the school week and by appointment after school.

In addition to medical care, the center will be the site for regular mobile dental visits, beginning next month. During these visits, a dental hygienist will provide cleanings and oral health education and take X-rays. If follow-up is required, the student is referred to a dentist at CHC’s Franklin Street Community Health Center in Stamford.

“We are excited to open this center in Stamford. There is a significant need within the two academies for easy access to primary care services,” said Jane Hylan, CHC’s director of school health services. “Prior to our opening this school-based health center, several students from these academies came to our Franklin Street Community Health Center for sports physicals. It quickly became evident to our providers that these students had limited or no health care histories or medical records. I applaud Michael Duggan for recognizing a need and reaching out to us.”

“School-based health centers are a critical part of our work, because they allow us to reach more uninsured and underserved children and adolescents and provide them with the highest quality of care during their formative years,” said Mark Masselli, president and CEO of Community Health Center, Inc. “Having access to care allows students to adopt life-long healthy habits, experience improved health outcomes and possibly even improve their school performance. These centers also offer convenience to both parents and children, eliminating missed work and school days due to a child’s medical appointment.”

About Community Health Center, Inc.

Since 1972, Community Health Center, Inc. has been one of the leading healthcare providers in the state of Connecticut, building a world-class primary health care system committed to caring for uninsured and underserved populations. CHC is focused on improving health outcomes for its more than 130,000 patients, as well as building healthy communities. Currently, CHC delivers service in 173 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. For more information, visit chc1.com.

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