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**Community Health Network of Connecticut Foundation, Inc.
Joins Fight in No. 1 Killer of Women**

Local Activities Part of Nationwide Effort to Educate Women about Heart Disease

WALLINGFORD, Conn. – Heart disease is the number one killer of women. This silent killer has generated a partnership between Community Health Network of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Service’s Office on Women’s Health, Region I, to raise awareness in communities across the state. Their mission is to bring the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute’s *Heart Truth Campaign* information to Connecticut communities through a variety of faith-based organizations with the assistance of local health care centers.

According to Sylvia B. Kelly, Chair of the Foundation Board, "Our *Heart Truth Health* displays are a great opportunity to reach out to women in our community and alert them regarding their personal risk factors for heart disease. We have decided to target the faith-based organizations because we know that people are seeking advice on medical treatment from their prospective faith-based organizations. Using the health centers that are located in these urban areas is the key to this campaign with their established presence in these communities."

This initiative includes providing local health care centers with educational materials that people can take home with them. The Region I Office of Women’s Health has supported this work with a contract for \$4,900 to the Foundation. The Foundation has added an additional \$1,500 toward the initiative.

"We are looking for a domino effect with this campaign," said Tressa Spears, the Foundation’s Executive Director. "The more people we can educate, the more likely the message will spread and filter into the communities. This is just the beginning of our initiative on heart health awareness."

The Foundation also plans to partner with the American Heart Association on a program titled "Search Your Heart." This program focuses on addressing cardiovascular disease (CVD) and instances of stroke in the African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Asian populations. Commencing in 1994, this faith-based program now has more than 7,000 participating organizations across the country.

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About *The Heart Truth* Campaign

A nationwide campaign—*The Heart Truth*—is underway to raise awareness that women need to protect their heart. This national campaign is building awareness of women's heart disease and empowering women to reduce and prevent their risk. It is reaching women with important heart health messages in community settings through a diverse network of national and grassroots partner organizations.

For more information about women and heart disease, including materials such as *The Healthy Heart Handbook for Women* and fact sheets about women and heart disease, please visit <http://www.hearttruth.gov> or call the NHLBI Health Information Center at 301.592.8573.