

Mini Grants Awarded For Fifth Year in a Row

Community Health Network of Connecticut Foundation, Inc. has awarded grants to the following Federally Qualified Health Centers:

Charter Oak Health Center - \$3,500

Charter Oak Health Center will use its \$3,500 grant to develop and produce informational brochures, postcards and magnetized business cards in English, Spanish and Bosnian, all of which will detail its many locations and array of services available. This will allow the health center to expand its reach into the community while increasing access to care. These materials will primarily be used by Charter Oak's Outreach Team in its promotional activities, in which it targets current and prospective patients. This mini grant will specifically fund the graphic design, professional production and printing of these items.

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Corporation - \$3,500

Cornell Scott-Hill Health Corporation will use its \$3,500 grant to support its health education and health promotion efforts. Hypertension is one of the top reasons patients visit the health center while obesity, diet, and lack of exercise are significant contributors to these conditions. Therefore, this funding will be used to purchase educational materials focusing on hypertension, obesity, exercise, and diet and nutrition. A portion of the grant will be used to purchase a television and DVD player so the health center could play health education and exercise videos for its patients. It also plans to purchase exercise equipment, including therabands, balance balls and stair steps, which will be used in conjunction with the purchased exercise videos.

Fair Haven Community Health Center - \$3,500

Fair Haven Community Health Center will use its \$3,500 grant to improve hearing screenings for its younger patients. The monies will be used to replace its audiometer machine so it can offer in-house, non-invasive hearing tests. This machine will be adapted for younger children so that they can point to various pictures depending on what they hear. A portion of the grant will also be used to purchase a laptop and supplies for the room that will accommodate its new hearing equipment. As the health center moves toward entering clinical and screening information online at the time of a visit (for the eventual transition to an EMR and a paperless environment), it has deemed it necessary to have laptops available for its staff.

Optimus Health Care, Inc. - \$3,500

Optimus Health Care, Inc will use its \$3,500 grant to contract with a certified consultant, who will help it develop and implement a staff training program that will focus on using team work in the provision of medical care. The training program will target medical receptionists, medical assistants, nursing staff and medical providers. A minimum of 50 staff persons will complete four hour education modules on team work. The tailored training program will then be implemented as a pilot at our two health center sites that use Open Access scheduling. The

benefits and outcomes of implementing an interactive training program on team work will be the reduction in employee turnover; less duplication of work and rework; improved morale; greater efficiencies in processes; and less miscommunication among staff. More importantly, this training will help us create a more productive and positive culture. To evaluate the training program, a pre- and post test will be implemented with staff. Optimus will work collaboratively with the Southwestern Connecticut Area Health Education Center to identify a competent consultant, develop the learning objectives for the training curriculum and to evaluate the educational modules.

StayWell Health Center - \$3,500

StayWell's community programs and pediatric departments offer the opportunity for isolated families to experience a positive activity with their children at a location that would otherwise be out of their reach. This occurred only with the Foundation's financial support. With this \$3,500 grant, StayWell and CHNCT celebrate the fifth consecutive year of this successful endeavor. Many of the health center's high risk families do not have the opportunity to enjoy a special day with their children. During this experience, participants learn how to encourage creativity, realize the fun of learning, develop social skills, learn stress relief techniques, all while keeping a connection with the medical home as a resource for child development concerns and parenting guidance. A portion of the grant will also be used to fund an 11-week, curriculum-based prenatal group. The goal of this group is to help reduce preterm birth and low birth weight babies. The sessions include education on smoking cessation, nutrition, bonding with baby, handling stress, labor and delivery, breastfeeding and early infant care. The program provides a strong foundation for women and their partners who may have multiple risk factors as they enter into parenthood. The early education is also intended to reduce poor birth outcomes.

Generations Family Health Center - \$3,380

Generations will use its \$3,380 grant to hire a graphic design consultant to write, design and take photos of the health center for its program brochures. The brochures will be distributed to referral sources, funders, donors, patients and community partners. Generations expects to utilize these new marketing tools to educate these individuals about the many services it provides and its locations.

Southwest Community Health Center, Inc. - \$3,200

Southwest recently opened its fifth health center site at 968 Fairfield Ave, Bridgeport. This new site is the organization's new primary care headquarters. Southwest has also recently begun provision of services at five school-based health centers. Children in these school-based sites have access to medical, dental and behavioral health services upon enrollment. As it continues to expand its capacity to provide medical, dental and behavioral health services to the people residing in the Greater Bridgeport area, the emphasis will be to broaden its marketing strategies to reach more potential patients in the community. A portion of the grant will be used to for its behavioral health department to purchase laptops, which will assist the staff as they strive to provide comprehensive counseling services to children and adolescents at its

School Based Health Center sites.