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COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC. OPENS SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTER AT SMALLEY ACADEMY IN NEW BRITAIN

New Britain, Conn. (December 21, 2011) – Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) has opened a school-based health center at Smalley Academy to bring on-site medical and behavioral health care to approximately 600 elementary students. The center, located at 175 West Street, is the third that CHC has opened in New Britain and is the newest on the growing list of 38 throughout the state.

“Smalley Academy hopes to utilize the SBHC as another venue to support our students and families. Smalley faculty, staff and administration is excited to host the SBHC in our school and we look forward to collaborating closely,” explained Mario Cruz, Principal of Smalley Academy. “It’s been our experience that the more we provide support in the areas of mental and physical health, the more amount of time teachers can spend on teaching.”

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 – with little interruption from the school day. 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 clinical social worker.

In addition to medical care, the center will provide access to regular mobile dental visits. 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 Community Health Center of New Britain.

“We are excited to open this center in New Britain. There is a significant need within the academy 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 this school came to New Britain 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 Mario Cruz 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 201 locations statewide, offering primary care in medicine, dentistry and behavioral health services. For more information, visit chc1.com.

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