

11/25/98

Health center expands services

By Susan Cooper
HERALD REPORTER

NEW BRITAIN — In an age where assistance to the ill is being scaled back, a \$400,000 grant to the Community Health Center, Inc. will help provide medical treatment for area residents who have little or no insurance, the center announced.

The Community Health Center received the \$400,000 earlier this month and in addition to helping treat the uninsured, the money will also allow the center to offer dental care as well.

The federal grant was awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services' Bureau of Primary Health Care.

Mark Masselli, president and chief executive officer of Community Health Center, Inc., said the "on-going" grant will allow the facility to expand its medical services in the city as well as allow for the development of dental services, which he said should be available by spring of 1999.

"The funding, known as a 330 grant, is considered prestigious. The organization's capability and the community need is evaluated in a national review. It's the only health center in Connecticut with two

See HEALTH, Page A6

Health center receives grant

From Page A1

sites that has this designation," said Masselli.

The health center, which opened its doors in July 1996 after a million-dollar renovation of its location at 1 Washington Square, provides primary medical care to the uninsured and underinsured populations of New Britain and surrounding communities. The center has six physicians, including two pediatricians, and has provided care to over 10,000 people, said Masselli.

Patricia Gallegos, site director for the New Britain center, said, "These funds will allow us to both enhance our medical operations and to finally begin to offer needed dental services."

Renovations for the new dental

facility started last week.

Medical Director Rob Dudley, M.D., said, "This designation by the Bureau of Primary Care as a 330-funded site is an important designation for the community. It will provide us with long-term resources to cope with the serious health needs of this community."

Masselli, offered thanks to U.S. Rep. Sam Gejdenson's, D-2nd District, office for its support during the review of the grant application.

"That access to health care continues to be difficult for many poor and working families in New Britain and across Connecticut. The health center is proud of the role it has played in New Britain in developing primary care services," Masselli said.