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Community Health Center, Inc. Celebrates National Health Center Week 2012

Events Planned State-Wide as Part of National Campaign Celebrating America's Health Centers: Powering Healthier Communities

MIDDLETOWN, CT – July 31, 2012: Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) is marking National Health Center Week 2012 (NHCW) with free, family-friendly events at several CHC locations across the state, as part of a campaign to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Health Centers as local solutions. The theme of this year's NHCW is "Celebrating America's Health Centers: Powering Healthier Communities," to underscore how community health centers provide access to affordable, high quality, cost effective health care to medically vulnerable and underserved people throughout the United States. Health centers are run from the bottom up, by a patient-majority governing board who guides how limited resources can be effectively directed to meet the health care needs of the community. They are strong partnerships of people, governments and communities who work together to meet the unique and diverse health conditions of the community.

Events will be taking place at these participating CHC's:

- Thursday, August 2nd, 11am-2pm, **CHC of New Britain**, 85 Lafayette Street, New Britain – health fair with free screenings and medical information, DJ, fresh smoothies, yoga, Zuma, farmers market, raffle prizes, Recess Rocks and more.
- Tuesday, August 7th, 11am-2pm, **CHC of Meriden**, 134 State Street, Meriden – community walk, Zumba and healthy snacks.
- Friday, August 10th, 11am-2pm, **CHC of Middletown**, 675 Main Street, Middletown – health fair with free screenings and medical information, DJ, fresh smoothies, yoga, Zuma, farmers market, raffle prizes, Recess Rocks and more.
- Saturday, August 11th, 11am-2pm, **CHC of Danbury**, 8 Delay Street, Danbury – health fair with free screenings and medical information, raffle prizes, health snack, activities for kids and more.

One of the bright spots in America's health care system, health centers, like the Community Health Center, Inc., provide a health care home to over 20 million people at 8,000 sites nationwide. Their model of care was rated as one of the most effective programs by then-President George W. Bush's Office of Management and Budget. Indeed, presidents from both parties and Members of Congress on both sides of the aisle have long-recognized the value of health centers and supported their expansion.

With more health care homes in communities, we can reduce health care costs and unnecessary hospitalizations and visits to the hospital emergency rooms. According to the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), there are 60 million people in the country with limited or no access to primary care providers – a trend that shows no sign of improving with the economic recession.

“Studies show when illnesses like diabetes, hypertension, asthma, and depression are not appropriately managed or prevented, they account for a significant portion of the skyrocketing costs for families and the entire health care system,” said Dr. Margaret Flinter, APRN, Ph.D., senior vice president and clinical director of CHC. “America's community health centers, like our own state-wide network of 13 centers, have been leaders in showing the value of this approach as an effective way to address more needs, improve health, and contain costs. Our patients not only get the care they need under one roof, but they are treated as individuals, with dignity and respect. This is what health care should be, and what we celebrate during National Health Center Week.”

Now more than ever public support is needed for health centers as Congress attempts to reduce the budget deficit with spending cuts to the program and changes to Medicaid that could further reduce access to preventive care for millions of people. To find out more, please visit www.nachc.org.

To find out more about National Health Center Week, visit www.healthcenterweek.org.

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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