



Traffic We:

# newstimes.com

Search newstimes.com Web Search by YAHOO! Businesses

Home News Sports Business Entertainment Obituaries Opinion Living Blogs Classifieds

Local Police Reports Regional National World Politics Science and Technology Special Sections

## City health center in Danbury gets grant from GE

Robert Miller, Staff Writer

Published: 11:23 p.m., Tuesday, December 14, 2010

VIEW: LARGER | HIDE

1 of 3

PREV NEXT



Dr. Gabriella Gellrich, a family doctor at the Community Health Center in Danbury, examines Donna Ruzza, 65, of New Milford Tuesday, Dec. 14, 2010. Photo: Carol Kaliff / The News-Times | [Buy This Photo](#)



Comments (0) 0 tweets 0

Larger | Smaller tweet Share

Printable Version

Email This

Font

DANBURY -- When Community Health Center Inc. opened its clinic on Delay Street in August 2008, it had a staff of three.

Now, two-and-a-half years later, there are 14 people working there -- primary-care doctors, behavioral-health specialists, nutritionists. About 5,000 patients -- mostly uninsured and under-insured -- have used its services. In 2011, it hopes to open its own dental clinic.

"We're busting at our seams in Danbury," said Mark Masselli, the president and CEO of Community Health Center, which now operates 12 clinics in the state.

"It's been a wonderful experience," said Adele Gordon, site manager for CHC in Fairfield County. "If you come into our waiting room, there are always people waiting for care."

Now, thanks to GE Foundation, the clinic will be able to expand its behavioral health care services to children. The clinic has received a \$250,000, two-year grant from the foundation.

"It is great, great news," Masselli said.

"There is such a need," he said. "About 80 percent of kids who need behavioral health care don't get treatment. The schools are great, but we want to get them help as far upstream as possible."

But for Masselli, equally exciting is GE's three-year commitment to offer its management expertise to the center under its Developing Health program.

"We've already met with 150 GE employees in Danbury - their executives, their staff," Masselli said. "We'll be working with that team. It's about learning from a different set of experiences."

Frank Montero, spokesman for the GE Foundation, said the company began the Developing Health program in New York City a year ago.

**OTHER NEWS**



Using social media to land a job



New federal school lunch bill will provide healthier food to more kids in Danbury area, state and country



**Witness said Krauth bragged about Bethel killing**

"We started with \$25 million, then expanded to \$50 million," Montero said. "We've doubled our commitment."

In Fairfield County, the GE Foundation grant to the Danbury clinic is one of five GE will give, with others going to clinics in Norwalk, Bridgeport and Stamford. In all, it is giving the five clinics \$1.25 million over two years.

Montero said the program has awarded grants in cities like New Orleans, where there's little GE presence, but its preference is to award grants where GE employees can offer their business knowledge to the grant recipients.

"What we've found is that the people who receive the grants are excited at first about the money," Montero said. "But then, when they realize about what the program offers, it's not about the money -- it's about our employees' engagement with their work."

And Masselli said, the GE business experience can only help when it comes to running the health center as efficiently as possible.

"Today, you can't just be good at one thing" Masselli said. "You have to be good at everything."

Contact Robert Miller

at [bmiller@newstimes.com](mailto:bmiller@newstimes.com)

or at 203-731-3345.

Printable Version

Email This

0 tweet

Share 0



**Add Your Comment**

**New to the site?**

To use commenting, you need to sign up.

**Already a member?**

Please log in.

[\(Forgot Password?\)](#)

Email

Password

Remember Me