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**Community Health Center and Macdonough Elementary School in Middletown
Celebrate 20 Years of Providing Health Services to Students**

Anniversary Year Marked By Extensive Renovations to the School-Based Health Center

Middletown, CT (September 19, 2013) – Today Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) celebrates 20 years of school-based health care with the grand-reopening of its first-ever school-based health center at Macdonough Elementary School in Middletown.

“The strength of Macdonough School is centered on extraordinary partnerships between our school, our families, and our community. The Community Health Center’s School Based Health Center is a wonderful example of this type of collaboration,” explained John Romeo, Principal of Macdonough School. “The school and the community coming together to support families; it’s what makes our school so special!”

In December 2012, CHC received a portion of a grant under the Affordable Care Act, awarded by the Department of Health and Human Services to 197 school-based health center programs across the country. Prior to the renovations, health services were offered in different sections of the school. A new space was defined by the school’s principal that now accommodates all services in one area. CHC spent the summer renovating this portion of the building to reflect Community Health Center’s current model of care that is evident in its main sites. The space includes fully integrated primary care (medical, behavioral health and dental), as well as dedicated work space (or “Pod”) where providers can easily interact with each other and discuss patient care.

CHC’s school-based health centers are committed to providing care within the schools with minimal interruption from the school day with the ultimate goals of reducing absences, improving performance, and preventing chronic diseases in students. These goals are obtained through comprehensive primary care, including immunizations, complete physical examinations, medication management, and intervention for acute chronic illnesses, long-term chronic care, as well as group and individual behavioral health care. Students without health insurance receive free services and are provided assistance in determining their eligibility for a public health insurance program, such as HUSKY.

“Having access to medical care at their school, at an early age, allows students to adopt life-long healthy habits, experience improved health outcomes and possibly even improve their school performance,” stated Jane Hylan, Director of School Health Services at CHC. “Our centers offer convenience to both parents and children, eliminating missed work and school days due to a child’s medical appointment.”

Today, CHC operates a range of health services in schools from full scope (medicine, dentistry, mental health) to single service, such as behavioral health, to a widely acclaimed mobile dental program in over a hundred schools across Connecticut. With this philosophy in mind, CHC, Inc. now provides health services in over 100 schools across Connecticut. Our mobile dental program is nationally recognized for its efficient, effective outreach, enrollment, and clinical services.

“CHC is proud to be the largest provider of school-based health services in the state. These centers are a critical part of our work, because they allow us to reach more uninsured and underserved children and adolescents and ensure access to the highest quality of care during their formative years,” said Mark Masselli, president and CEO of CHC. “We have been working with local school boards across the state for 20 years now to develop school health services consistent with their missions.”

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. Recognized as both a Level 3 Patient-Centered Medical Home by the National Committee for Quality Assurance and a Primary Care Medical Home by The Joint Commission, CHC delivers service in more than 200 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. For more information, visit www.chc1.com.

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