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Community Health Center, Inc. Celebrates National Health Center Week 2013

August 10, 2013 | Hope Howley Brigham, Community Health Center, inc., Statewide

Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC) recognizes National Health Center Week 2013 (NHCW) by hosting multiple free, family-friendly events, at various sites, to raise awareness about the mission and accomplishments of America's Health Centers as local gateways to healthcare. This year's national theme is "Celebrating America's Health Centers: Transforming Health Care in Our Local Communities". Community health centers serve more than 22 million people nationwide and CHC itself cares for 130,000 patients across our state of Connecticut. Health Centers are leaders in prevention, managing chronic illness, and integrating medicine, dentistry and behavioral health under one roof and in one electronic health record.

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Each health fair will have fun and healthy events along with music, prizes, various program information and unique activities/medical screenings that will vary by site.

Events will be taking place at the following locations:

Monday, Aug. 12, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., CHC of Clinton, 114-116 East Main Street, Clinton
 Tuesday, Aug. 13, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., CHC of New London, 1 Shaw's Cove, New London
 Wednesday, Aug. 14, 11a.m. to 2 p.m., CHC of New Britain, 85 Lafayette Street, New Britain

Thursday, Aug. 15, 12 p.m. to 3 p.m., CHC of Middletown, 675 Main Street, Middletown
 Friday, Aug. 17, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., Ryan Park, 1 Raymond Street, Norwalk- "SoNo Day Out"

According to the National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), federally qualified community health centers are producing \$24 billion in annual health system savings while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and ER visits. This national network of health centers provides primary and preventive care, as well as dental, mental health, substance abuse and pharmacy services at over 1,200 health centers with approximately 9,000 service delivery sites in every state and territory.

"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. This is what health care should be, and what we celebrate during National Health Center Week."

This week of observance also comes at an important time in regards to welcoming Connecticut's new Health Insurance MarketplaceAccess Health Connecticut. Due to the Affordable Care Act, the department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced in July that the Obama Administration awarded \$1.6 million to Connecticut health centers to provide enrollment services, which includes the Community Health Center, Inc. CHC plans to have staff present at each National Health Center Week event that can begin talking to patients about what they can expect once enrollment begins.

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