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**Community Health Center, Inc. Celebrates 44 years  
of Growth and Innovation**

**MIDDLETOWN, Conn., April 29, 2016:** Community Health Center, Inc. (CHC), one of the nation’s oldest and largest health centers for the medically underserved, celebrates its 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary May 1.

Founded in 1972 by Mark Masselli and a group of Wesleyan University students committed to the belief that healthcare is a right, not a privilege, CHC has grown into an organization providing comprehensive care in medicine, dentistry, and behavioral health to more than 130,000 people of all ages throughout Connecticut. It recently added its newest location in Hartford through a partnership with Connecticut Children’s, where CHC will see thousands of pediatric patients annually.

“Our work over the years has been animated by the belief that we can build a world-class primary care system focused on improving patient outcomes for people long forgotten because of their income, race, language, legal status and orientation,” says Masselli, chief executive officer and president of CHC.

The initial focus for CHC was ensuring access to healthcare regardless of geography, according to Masselli. Over time, he and others realized the existing healthcare system wasn’t getting good results for the populations they cared about, so CHC expanded its focus to designing and reimagining primary care by establishing its own research center in 2013 —the Weitzman Institute —to focus on transforming primary care through rigorous clinical research.

“Today, our work is being shared with thousands of clinicians and other healthcare workers in all 50 states,” says Masselli. “We help clinicians and primary care practices provide better care for patients with HIV, hepatitis C, and opioid dependence, among other conditions, and we were recently funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to launch a national learning collaborative on improving care for the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender (LGBT) community.”

CHC also established the nation’s first nurse practitioner residency program and redesigned the electronic consultation system to quickly link specialists with primary care practitioners in remote locations or inner cities around the country.

“We have a saying at CHC that ‘if you borrow an idea, you have a responsibility to return it with interest,’” says Masselli. “Our goal is to encourage and support our staff and to work with other organizations around the globe to take their best ideas and return them with interest for those most in need.”

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**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 healthcare 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 250 locations statewide, offering primary care in medical, dental and behavioral health services. For more information, visit [www.chc1.com](http://www.chc1.com).