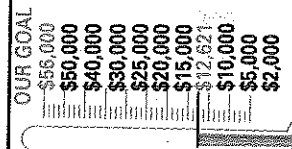
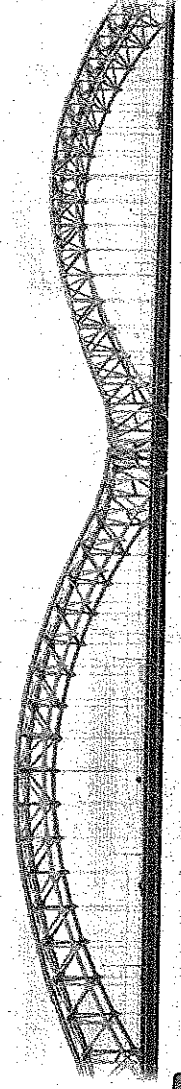


Children



INSIDE: KOREAN VETERANS HONORED



"Best Nutcracker in Connecticut"
By Elizabeth Sparrow
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Students from Macdonough Elementary School use tiny shovels to scoop dirt with Community Health Center president and CEO Mark Masselli, left, and U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd during a ground breaking ceremony for the Community Health Center on the corner of Grand and Main Street in Middletown on Monday. The three-story building is expected to be complete in 13 months. To buy a glossy print of this photo and more, visit www.middletownpress.com.

A NEW CHAPTER

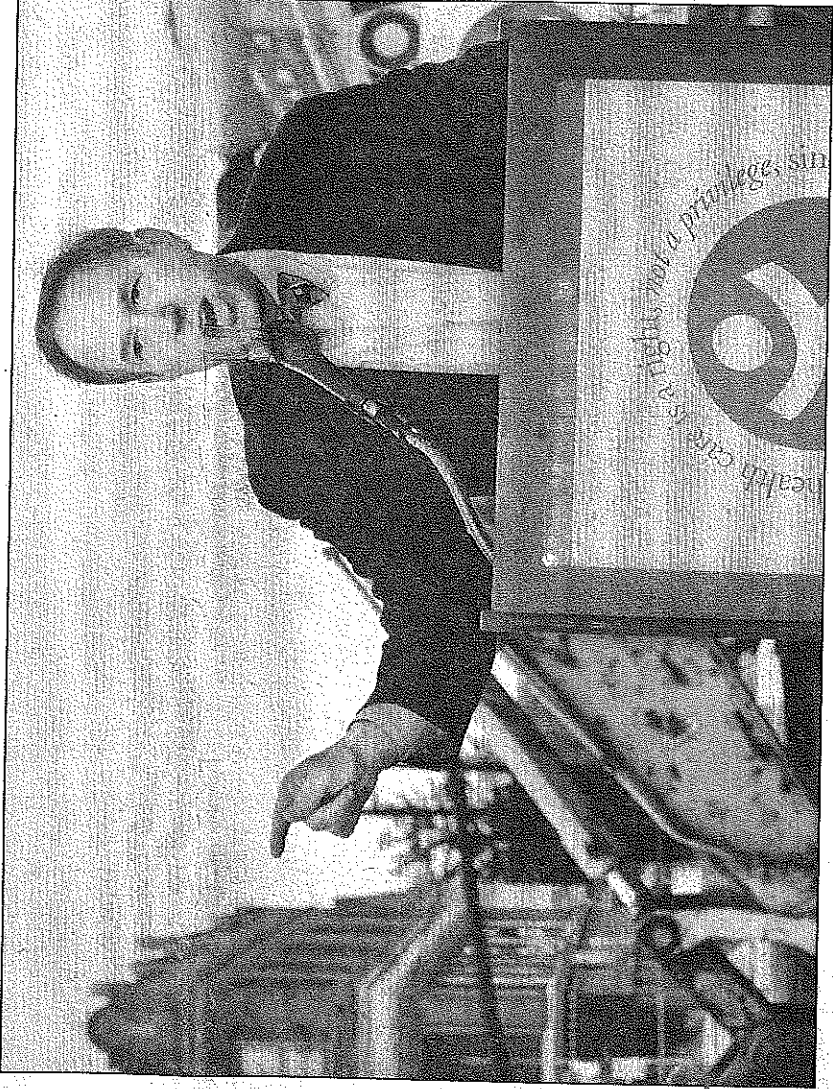
Dodd, students assist in health center groundbreaking

By JEFF MILL
 Middletown Press

MIDDLETOWN - With the helping hands of some two-dozen Macdonough School children, ground was broken this morning for the new 48,000-square-foot Community Health Center building at the corner of Grand and Main streets.

Surrounding U.S. Sen. Christopher J. Dodd, the children used small black-plastic shovels to help mark the beginning of construction on the \$17 million building.

Dodd joked he could have used a hard hat like the ones the chil-



See the VIDEO at MiddletownPress.com

Community Health Center president and CEO Mark Masselli and U.S. Sen. Chris Dodd speak at the ground breaking ceremony for the new Community Health Center in Middletown on Monday.

OFFICIAL SAYS...

Schools can't tackle bullies on their own

By HILLARY FEDERICO
 Press Staff

HARTFORD — Schools can't tackle bullying alone was the message at a new community forum Monday.

"For so long we have heard that we have a problem with bullying. We really want to get to the next step and see what we can do about it," said Celine Provini, director of program planning and development for the Governor's Prevention Partnership.

The public forum — said to be the first of its kind in the state of Connecticut — brought together experts, educators, parents and students in an effort to begin a conversation, addressing the severity of bullying in school. Attendees filled the room to capacity listening intently to keynote speeches and personal accounts on bullying along with preventative measures of how to stop it.

The forum — called "Bullying in the Classroom and the Chat Room: Ensuring that Every Student is Safe to Learn" — was presented by the Governor's Prevention Partnership, the state Department of Education and the Connecticut Commission on Children. Beginning with the stories of four student panelists, the forum then spotlighted a Newington bus driver and a Windsor Locks educator as well as keynote speaker, Kevin Jennings,

See BULLYING, A4

Drugs found outside city bank, man

Continued from A1

children were wearing during his past couple of years in politics. The senator, who will retire in January, used the groundbreaking to stress to the children that they can in fact make a difference in their community.

He urged the children to use CHC president and CEO Mark Masselli as an example of what one person can accomplish in his or her community.

He also drew comparisons to three other people who, during his lifetime, made singular contributions to their communities, their countries, and indeed the world at large.

The three are Nelson Mandela, the South African civil rights leader, Lech Walesa, the Polish shipbuilding worker who began the Solidarity movement which undermined communist rule in Poland and throughout the Eastern Bloc, and Eunice Kennedy Shriver, who literally began the Special Olympics in her backyard.

Dodd said he was a student in a Jesuit high school in Washington at the time, and could see the Shriver's backyard and the 10 mentally and physically challenged athletes who performed in the first Special Olympics.

Today, the Special Olympics has grown to 160 countries throughout the world, Dodd said.

While Masselli might not be on the level with those three icons, Dodd said he has helped moved Middletown closer to the goal first set down over 100 years ago

CENTER: Groundbreaking ceremony

have created in Middletown over the last 38 years.

The building that will be built on the site is less about bricks and mortar and more "about the people we are," Dodd said.

Masselli began by welcoming people to the North End, "where we grow ideas!"

Masselli said he was only able to accomplish what he did thanks to a network of friends.

He started building that network in 1972, when he arrived in Middletown with the dream of developing a way to provide health care to the neediest people in town.

He began with the support of Reba Moses, the daughter of a black sharecropper, who came north in search of a better life. Main Street pharmacist Jerry Weitzman, and Wesleyan University.

With their help, Masselli said he began the journey which to Monday's groundbreaking.

Along the way, Masselli said as CHC grew, so did his support network which included Dodd, Middlesex Chamber of Commerce President Larry McHugh, Middletown Mayor Sebastian Giuliano and his predecessor, Dominique Thornton, and members of the Common Council and the area's legislative delegation.

Margaret Flinter, the CHC's vice-president and clinical director, said she and Masselli anticipate opening the new three-story building in 13 months.

Jeff Mill can be reached via e-mail at jmill@middletownpress.com.

Masselli said he was only able to accomplish what he did thanks to a network of friends.

by President Theodore Roosevelt, who called for universal health care for all Americans.

It is an issue that has touched Dodd personally as well. His father, Thomas Dodd, seconded Harry Truman's nomination for president in 1948 when Truman "couldn't find 10 people who would stand with him," Dodd said.

One of the things the elder Dodd endorsed in his speech was Truman's call for universal health care.

And in 2008, a tragedy brought the issue to Dodd's very doorstep.

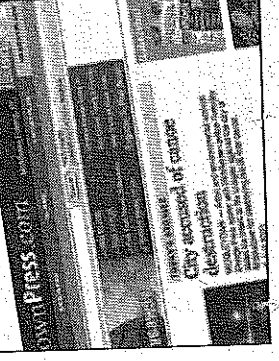
He recounted how Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who had made health care the defining issue of his career, fell ill with an aggressive form of brain cancer that would eventually kill him. Dodd and Kennedy were good friends, and Kennedy asked Dodd to take the lead in helping to craft the health care legislation that Congress adopted last year.

Dodd acknowledged Monday the legislation is not perfect, and can be improved.

But he warned against repealing the legislation, and forcing people most in need back to the uncertainty of not having affordable - and reliable - health care of the type Masselli and his staff

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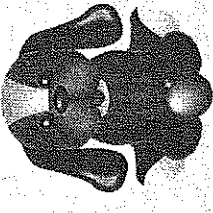
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The teleconference scheduled for Monday was rescheduled for Monday.

Leanna See, whose poster depicts a vibrant neighborhood filled with grass, trees, birds and homes. "At home, I have three gardens, one that is just flowers and plants and another that is for fruits and vegetables."

The posters, which the students drew during sessions of their Friday afternoon Green Smarts environmental club hosted by Wesleyan's Green Street Arts Center, are part of a project they were invited to

ronment through letters, pictures, poems and songs. McClure, a faculty member at the Eastman School of Music at the State University of New York, is visiting students in Ghana and will incorporate the students' environment-themed messages in a musical composition. The piece will be performed by Wesleyan students and local middle-schoolers at a concert in Middletown next spring.

The Macdonough fifth-

of the week.
"We fertilized and made the soil better," fifth-grader Tiana Bressler said of her visit to the garden.

"We left rotten food to fertilize the soil," added Dimoni Parrish. "Other states plant trees and flowers and plants, which help provide oxygen and products like cotton."

Through the Green Street Arts Center, the students will take drumming lessons, learn Ghanaian songs and hear

Ghana had been planned for Monday, but technical difficulties pushed it to another day. Instead, the students and teacher Stefanie DiBacco spent extra time discussing the environment and how they can make a difference.

"I'm going to put this poster up in my neighborhood," student Maurice Brackett said of a classmate's drawing about littering. "I'm going to tell people: 'Don't litter here.'"

\$220,000 to replace carpets at Buttonball and Hopewell elementary schools; \$335,000 to replace the intercom system at the elementary schools, which would allow teachers to speak to the administrative office by phone instead of over an intercom; and \$89,500 for repaving two driveway loops at Smith Middle School. "We are trying to keep buildings where they should be in terms of maintenance," Bookman said.

MIDDLETOWN

Construction Starts On Community Health Center Building

By **SHAWN R. BEALS**
sbeals@courant.com

MIDDLETOWN — Community Health Center began construction Monday on its new three-story, 48,000-square-foot facility on Main Street.

The building will consolidate all of Community Health Center's Middletown primary-care operations into one building. Up to 21 health care jobs will be created when the project is completed, according to the health center.

"With health reform now in effect, community health centers across the country will experience an increased demand for primary and preventive care," Mark Masselli, Community Health Center's CEO, said in a news release.

Community Health Center provides medical, dental, behavioral health and obstetric care to area residents. It was founded in 1972, and its statewide network provides health care for more than 100,000 people.

The center in October received

a \$7 million federal grant toward the project, and has also received \$2.5 million from the State Bond Commission. The rest of the \$17 million project will be funded through financing, Masselli said.

"These are challenging economic times, and community health centers like the one that will be built here in Middletown are so important. Regardless of an individual's ability to pay, community health centers are providing high-quality health care to all," U.S. Sen. Christo-

pher Dodd said in a news release.

The building is being built on the corner of Main and Grand streets, on a city-owned parking lot. The new center will have a parking lot behind it, and will have several environmentally friendly aspects, including a "green" roof and solar panels.

Masselli said Monday that the center could be open by December 2011. He said Community Health Center is "working with the city on parking issues."

"We're building on a model of

care that's evolving all around the United States that's as patient-centered as possible," Masselli said.

He said that up to 150 people, mostly from local contractors, would be involved with the building project.

"It's going to be a great thing for the North End," said Larry McHugh, president of the Middlesex County Chamber of Commerce. "It's going to create some jobs and become a signature building there."