

Center expansion promises better care

With more rooms, patients can expect faster service

By JAMES CRAVEN
STAFF WRITER

NEW BRITAIN — With the stroke of a felt-tipped marker, Mayor Timothy Stewart and state Sen. Donald DeFronzo signed the beam destined to be the entrance to the newly expanded Community Health Center Friday.

When completed, the project will almost double the size of the facility adding 16 examining rooms to more efficiently deliver health care to thousands of center clients.

"We would not be here except for the leadership of Mayor Stewart and Sen. DeFronzo," said Mark Masselli, president of CHC. "We are going to be taxpayers here."

With hundreds of exposed grey-steel studs shining in the brisk morning sunshine and workers continuing their jobs even as the dedication took place, Masselli said the expansion of the health center would benefit many in the community.

"We may only see the hardened steel of this building but what's deep inside are the staff whose heart and compassion toward the citizens of New Britain that really give it its heart and soul," Masselli said.

The 20,000-square-foot expansion will

bring the health facility to nearly 37,000 square feet and add 16 examining rooms for better and more efficiently delivered medical services.

"I'm very pleased to see this project moving toward completion," Stewart said. "Not only are we bringing construction jobs in the community but we're also increasing our much-needed healthcare jobs."

The \$4.4 million expansion was possible because of the inclusion of \$2.5 million in state funds.

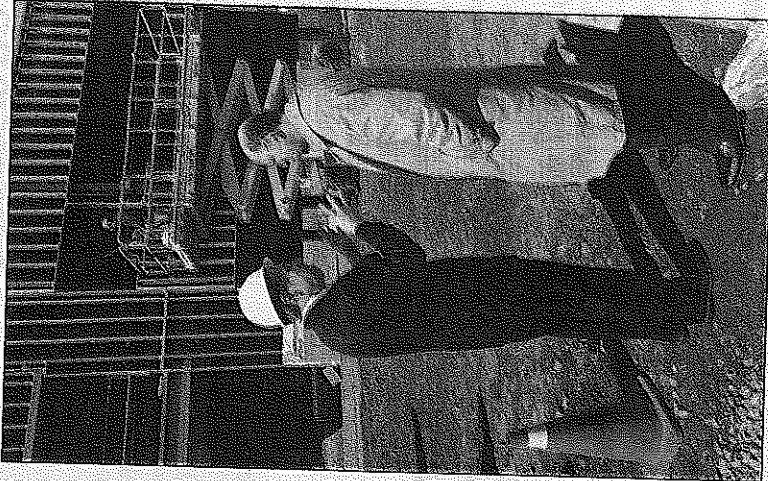
"It's great to see one of our bonding programs come to fruition," DeFronzo said. "This is a real success story."

DeFronzo said the real beneficiaries will be the thousands of people who will come to the center for health care for years to come.

Also signing the beam were Masselli, Alderman Michael Trueworthy and many of the staff at CHC.

Community Health Center has been in New Britain for 12 years and offers primary care health services to underinsured and uninsured patients. The primary care services are in medical, dental and behavioral health.

The expanded facility is expected to be in service by August.



Rob Heyl
President and CEO of Community Health Center Mark Masselli confers with Sen. Don DeFranzo at the site.

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