



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

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# Wheeler COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE IMPACT

The difference we make in our communities

SPRING 2022

**Accessible Care in Bristol**  
*Flagship Health Center in Centre Square Downtown*

**COMMUNITY**  
The Wheeler-Mott Partnership Turns Six

**HEALTH**  
Primary Care Offered in Plainville

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Caring for Youth With HEART

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- Clinician Loan Repayment Program
- Hands & Hearts Honorees
- Expanded Care for Young Children
- Cannabis Public Awareness Campaign



## Wheeler Planning Flagship Health Center, New Headquarters, in Downtown Bristol

Helping to anchor the downtown Bristol Centre Square development with professional jobs and accessible health care for the entire community, Wheeler Health is moving forward with a plan to purchase an approximate 1.3-acre lot between North Main and Hope streets, with the intent to build an approximately 46,000-square foot community health center and administrative headquarters, opening in 2023.

The site will combine many of Wheeler's administrative departments with a consolidation of its two existing community health centers at 10 and 225 North Main streets. More than 200 full- and part-time employees will work at the new building, which will become the organization's flagship location. It is Wheeler's first newly constructed facility since its original location in 1972.

Wheeler will fund the entire project through a combination of loans, allocations from Wheeler's endowment, private giving, and public grants. To help support the construction of the center, Wheeler also announced a four-year, \$500,000 fundraising campaign. Through the support of an anonymous donor in Bristol and other local philanthropic investors, the organization has raised nearly \$330,000 in gifts and pledges toward the goal at the public launch of

the campaign. The fundraising drive is led by a committee of Wheeler Trustees with ties to the Bristol community, including Chairman Jim Moylan, and expects to exceed its goals within four years through community donations, corporate support, fundraising events, and planned gifts designated for the effort. The Wheeler Board of Trustees achieved 100 percent participation and reached its \$100,000 goal for members as part of this campaign.

A groundbreaking ceremony is expected in the spring, with an opening planned for spring 2023.

**FACT:** Following its first full year of operation in 2014, Wheeler's Bristol Family Health & Wellness Center served 555 patients. Today, this center serves more than 3,500 patients from the city and surrounding communities.

To access an expanded version of this story and other stories in this issue, visit: [WheelerHealth.org/Impact](https://WheelerHealth.org/Impact) or access the page by scanning this QR code with your cell phone.



## COMMUNITY

# Mott Partnership Enters Sixth Year

When Wheeler and Farmington-based Mott Corporation embarked on an innovative corporate philanthropic partnership in 2016, it was hard to predict its impact on the local community or Mott employees who are integrally involved. Back then, as Wheeler moved into the integrated care space—having just opened its first community health center in Bristol—and Mott sought ways to make an impact on the local community, the two organizations converged. Both Wheeler and Mott leveraged their unique strengths to promote and improve community health, with a focus on Bristol and New Britain.

The partnership has two strands. The first is local community health outreach, made possible with yearly funding from Mott for a Wheeler community health outreach coordinator who engages Central Connecticut families in culturally and linguistically responsive health care services through Wheeler's Family Health & Wellness Centers in Bristol and New Britain. The second is employee-driven volunteer engagement through which Mott employees, called "Mott Health Ambassadors," provide support and staffing for various Wheeler and community events, ranging from community conversations about addiction, to recovery walks, toy drives, packaging basic needs items, and so much more.



**FACT:** Mott Health Ambassadors have contributed nearly 550 hours of service as part of the partnership.

## COMMUNITY ROUNDUP

- A new statewide **cannabis billboard campaign**, managed by Wheeler's Prevention, Wellness and Recovery team, recently launched. Funded by the **Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**, with direction from the **Connecticut Alcohol Drug Policy Council (ADPC)**, the campaign addresses legal age, safe storage, driving under the influence, and crossing state lines.
- Since 2011, **Wheeler's Hands & Hearts Appreciation Award** provided a meaningful way to honor more than **70 individuals and businesses** for their significant generosity ranging from event sponsorship, to scholarship funding; financial support for structural enhancements and equipment; volunteer support, and more. The most **recent recipients**, honored on December 8, 2021, were: **Genoa Healthcare, GO Agency, Dennis and Mary Keenan, Karl J. Krapek, and Ann E. Thomas and Michael B. Bonzagni.**

## HEALTH

# Primary Care Services Offered in Plainville

Patients of all ages at Wheeler's Family Health & Wellness Center at 91 Northwest Drive, Plainville, can now access primary care services, including medical and pediatric care, wellness care, and immunizations; physical examinations; chronic disease screening and treatment for conditions such as asthma, diabetes, hypertension/heart health, oversight of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for addiction, and more.

"Adding primary care to a robust array of services already at this location helps to further meet the whole-health needs of patients from Plainville and surrounding communities," said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and chief executive officer, Wheeler. "We are pleased to broaden services here, the original site of Wheeler's first mental health outpatient clinic since 1972. Even at that time, our prescient leaders had a vision for integrating care to promote overall health for the individuals and families we serve."

Wheeler began transformation of services at the Northwest Drive facility in September 2020, following this site's designation as a federally qualified health center. Wheeler's Plainville location is the organization's fifth community health center. Other centers are located in Bristol, Hartford, New Britain, and Waterbury.



**FACT:** In 2014, of the nearly 5,000 patients referred to Wheeler's behavioral health centers in Hartford, New Britain, and Plainville, nearly 48 percent reported that they didn't have a primary care physician. Since then, we've expanded primary care to all community health center sites.

## HEALTH ROUNDUP

- Wheeler licensed **health care professionals** may be eligible for a **loan repayment** benefit through the **National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment** program. Up to \$250,000 is available.
- Wheeler was named a **Healthcare Equality Index (HEI) "2022 LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer"** for its commitment to LGBTQ+ patient-centered care. HEI is the **Human Rights Campaign's** national LGBTQ+ benchmarking tool that evaluates health care facilities' policies and practices related to the **equity and inclusion** of LGBTQ+ patients, visitors, and employees.

## CARE

# Caring for Youth With HEART

Wheeler's Mobile Crisis Intervention program and two additional providers are part of a new, innovative civilian crisis intervention program in Hartford called the Hartford Emergency Assistance Response Team (HEARTeam). This initiative offers an alternative response to emergency 9-1-1 calls involving Hartford residents in emotional and mental health crisis. HEARTeam responders will assist in situations where specialized, non-law enforcement intervention is most effective.

Each provider offers a different response, including support for adults with acute mental health issues, as well as de-escalation techniques and linkage to care. Wheeler's team will support children and youth under 18 who experience a behavioral health crisis through on-site crisis assessment, intervention, safety planning and stabilization, as well as telephone and virtual services, and follow-up care.

"The past two years clearly exposed what we've always known: The mental health of our children is vulnerable and precious, and must be treated with compassion," said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and chief executive officer of Wheeler. "Hartford's innovative approach offers kids and the people who love them the hope for a better tomorrow through a more appropriate response to mental health crises."

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It is a season of new beginnings, especially here at Wheeler. Our cover story celebrates our agreement with the City of Bristol to open a new flagship health center and headquarters, which will provide residents with even greater access to medical and behavioral health care. We look forward to deepening our already-strong bond with this city by providing convenient services in one location.

We also launched primary care services at our Plainville Family Health & Wellness Center, bringing full circle our longtime vision of integrated care by offering it at the site of our very first mental health outpatient clinic in 1972.

With new beginnings comes gratitude, particularly for the individuals and organizations whose creativity, generosity, and friendship have brought us to where we are today. Our stories highlighting our innovative corporate philanthropic partnership with Mott Corporation and Hands & Hearts Appreciation Award recipients remind us that we are only as strong as those in our community. We are fortunate to have so many supportive, talented individuals as part of our *Wheeler family*.

Enjoy this issue, and enjoy some new beginnings of your own this season! Thank you for all you do to support our work in the areas of community, health, and care.

*Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA*

Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA  
President and Chief Executive Officer



**FACT(s):** Wheeler is the largest provider of Mobile Crisis Intervention Services in the state. Schools are the number one referral source for this form of care.

## CARE ROUNDUP

- **Young children** with **mental health challenges** and their families in Department of Children and Families (DCF) **Region 6** will have greater access to care through Wheeler's expansion of the **Child First™** program. Child First is funded by DCF.
- Wheeler has expanded its role in the **Substance-Exposed Infants-Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders** (SEI-FASD) statewide Initiative by adding a plan of safe care coordinator. The program, funded by **DCF** and the **Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services**, strengthens capacity to improve the **safety, health, and well-being of infants born substance exposed** and provide support for their families.
- Wheeler's **Luis Perez**, formerly a community health outreach worker for Bristol and New Britain, now **has an expanded role** as community health outreach coordinator for **New Britain and Hartford**. Luis plans, coordinates, and implements activities to enhance **access to primary and behavioral health care**.

## PLEDGE

### YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

YOUR support, YOUR commitment, YOUR vision can change, and literally save, lives.

### Yes! I want to support:

- Bristol Family Health & Wellness Center..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Basic Needs Fund..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Basic Needs Fund, Northwest Village School..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Other ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my total gift of ..... \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Enclosed (Please make payable to Wheeler.)

**Please charge my donation to:** Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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My employer will match my contribution. I have enclosed a matching gift form.

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