



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

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Wheeler

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IMPACT

The difference
we make in our
communities

FALL 2021

Helping Mothers And Families

*PROUD Program
Relunched at
Fall Festival*

COMMUNITY

Annual Golf Classic
Supports Basic Needs Fund

HEALTH

A Vision for Care
in Bristol

CARE

Expansion of
Mental Health Services

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE...

- Essential Dental Services
- Flu and COVID-19 Campaign
- Breaking Cycles of Poverty, Violence
- Addiction Treatment in Waterbury



Wheeler

Family Health & Wellness Center

Health Care

PROUD Program Relaunch and Fall Festival in Waterbury

There's a lot happening at Wheeler's community health center at 855 Lakewood Road in Waterbury, and a recent two-part special event helped to underscore this point.

On October 20, an afternoon Fall Festival and Health Fair took place and was preceded by an event to mark the relaunch of a federally funded program for expectant moms and mothers of young children, as well as details on enhanced medication-assisted treatment for adults. (See **ROUNDUP** items in the **CARE** section). Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) Acting Commissioner Nancy Navarretta, MA, LPC, NCC, and other community leaders attended the morning program, and later on, residents of the Brass City enjoyed the festival and health fair, which featured free food, tours, health screenings, family activities, and more.

"Both events on this day provided an opportunity to highlight programs and services that help individuals and families struggling with substance use issues, emotional challenges, health concerns, and more," said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and chief executive officer, Wheeler. "We will always look for ways to inform and remind residents in this city and surrounding towns that

our community health center and caring team are here to meet their needs."



FACT: Since the move to 855 Lakewood Road in 2020, Wheeler has more than doubled its patient caseload.



Wheeler

Family Health & Wellness Center

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



COMMUNITY

Annual Golf Classic Raises \$52,000

In mid-September, more than 130 golfers, sponsors, and volunteers participated in Wheeler's 36th Annual Golf Classic, presented by Mutual of America Financial Group, at the Country Club of Farmington. The event raised \$52,000 to support individuals and families in our care through Wheeler's Basic Needs Fund.

"Last year, amid the pandemic, we served more than 50,000 kids, adults, families, and communities, across more than 90 percent of Connecticut's cities and towns," said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and chief executive officer, Wheeler. "Without our donors and supporters, and their role in events such as the Golf Classic, we cannot meet community needs, including the most basic needs, such as food, clothing, transportation, linkage to vital community services, and more.

"Because of our supporters, we are able to address factors that interfere with patients' health and well-being—in ways not addressed by other means of funding, and we are helping to further improve health outcomes for individuals and communities," Trocchi added.



FACT: The total amount raised through Wheeler's Annual Golf Classic is more than \$1.3 million since the event's inception in 1986.

COMMUNITY ROUNDUP

- **Wheeler** is one of nearly 20 community partners in an effort led by **Connecticut Children's** to improve the lives of children in North Hartford by helping to **break cycles of poverty and violence**. The five-year, multi-partner, cross-sector effort is made possible through a new **\$30 million grant** from the U.S. Department of Education.
- As part of **International Overdose Awareness Day** on August 31, **Mott Corporation** volunteers joined others to place 1,374 white flags at the State Capitol. Each flag represented a **life lost** to overdose in 2020, a 14.5 percent increase over the previous year.
- Wheeler Chief Financial Officer **Athena Dellas Szczesniak, MBA**, received a 2021 **C-Suite Award** from the **Hartford Business Journal** and spoke at an October 6 event about her philosophy of servant leadership.

HEALTH

A Vision for Accessible Care in Bristol

Wheeler is adding another chapter to its decades-long history with the Bristol community and has a vision to purchase Centre Square property between North Main and Hope streets for a new flagship health center. The site would house a brand-new community health center and consolidate services currently located at 10 and 225 North Main streets. Administrative offices also would be located here.

"We are eager to provide residents of this city and surrounding towns with accessible care in one convenient location," said Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA, president and chief executive officer, Wheeler. "From medical and behavioral health services, to addiction treatment and linkages to area resources, we are committed to promoting the health and well-being of area residents."

Today, in addition to community health centers at 10 and 225 North Main streets, Wheeler operates community justice and intervention programs, as well as Child First, an intensive, home-visiting model for young children and their families, and school-based health centers in every Bristol Public School.



The image above is a rendering of the proposed new building.

FACT: Wheeler's first federally qualified health center opened at 10 North Main Street, Bristol, in 2013.

HEALTH ROUNDUP

- Individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will continue to access essential dental services, thanks to a collaboration between Wheeler and **Harc, Inc.**, and a new **\$50,000 S.M.I.L.E. Grant** from the **Delta Dental of New Jersey Foundation**.
- An initiative funded by the **City of Hartford** and coordinated by the **United Way of Northeastern Connecticut**, in collaboration with Wheeler, is raising awareness of the need for **flu** and **COVID-19** vaccines.
- Wheeler's **nursing team** received a **2021 Excellence in the Workplace Award** from the **Connecticut Nurses Association** and was recognized for compassionate leadership, particularly during the pandemic.

CARE

Federal Grant Expands Mental Health Services

A two-year, \$5-million federal grant will expand mental health services for children, adolescents, and adults through Wheeler's community health centers in Bristol, Hartford, New Britain, Plainville, and Waterbury.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) as one of more than 200 organizations nationwide, the Community Mental Health Centers grant will provide patients with rapid access to behavioral health and other forms of care, outreach, and engagement. Wheeler was one of six awardees in Connecticut.

The Wheeler program will include: the addition of a Behavioral Health Access Team (BHAT) at each Community Mental Health Center site for walk-in crisis and early intervention services and connection to psychiatric services; enhanced referral pathways through partnerships with a number of faith-based and grassroots organizations; after-hours peer support; staff training on behavioral health disparities, engaging diverse populations, and the impact of the pandemic on behavioral health; and expanded self-care opportunities, including wellness and health coaching.



FACT: In Connecticut, rates of serious mental illness and thoughts of suicide among young adults are higher than national averages.

CARE ROUNDUP

- Wheeler has received a five-year, **\$625,000** Mental Health Awareness Training Emergency Services (MHAT-ES) **SAMHSA grant** to deliver **Mental Health First Aid** training to **emergency services** and other **frontline personnel** across Connecticut.
- A five-year, **\$2.6-million federal SAMHSA grant** will support expanded access to **medication-assisted treatment (MAT)** and **recovery supports** for adults in **Waterbury** with opioid use disorders.
- Wheeler's **PROUD** program has expanded across the state to 16 Connecticut cities and towns and was relaunched at a special event in Waterbury on October 20. PROUD serves **women** who are **pregnant** or **parenting young children** and who have active **substance use disorders** or a substance use history, including opioid use, or a related disorder. The program is supported by a three-year, **\$2.7 million SAMHSA grant** to the **Connecticut Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS)**.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



COMMUNITY | HEALTH | CARE

As we emerge from the challenges of the past year, we are eager to meet the urgent needs of our communities.

Our feature story highlights a recent event at our Waterbury community health center to relaunch our federally funded PROUD program for expectant and new mothers with substance use challenges, as well as highlight the array of primary care and behavioral health services at our 855 Lakewood Road location.

Some of our other stories highlight exciting areas of service delivery, thanks to federal support from SAMHSA. With these grants, we're broadening mental health services through our five community health centers; delivering Mental Health First Aid Training to frontline responders; and enhancing our medication-assisted treatment for adults in Waterbury.

People across our state have suffered immeasurably throughout this pandemic. Our services help mitigate and address critical needs as we move forward.

Thank you for everything you do in support of our mission and vision. We are stronger and better because of YOU.



Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA

Sabrina Trocchi, PhD, MPA
President and Chief Executive Officer

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 _____

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Exp. Date _____ Security Code _____

Signature _____

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