



P R E S S R E L E A S E

For Immediate Release

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Foundation for Community Health Announces Connecticut Grant Awards In Mental Health and Access to Services

The Foundation for Community Health is pleased to announce the current round of grant awards totaling over \$313,700 in the areas of mental health and access to services. These awards were made to local health organizations that serve the needs of the people living in the northern Litchfield Hills of Connecticut and the greater Harlem Valley in New York. The overall goals for these awards is to improve the mental health of the residents in this community by supporting the enhancement of community based quality and comprehensive health services as well as strengthening the ability to access health care services. The Foundation has infused over one million dollars into this community in health service support since its inception in 2003.

The Connecticut agencies that received awards to improve mental health and access to services for our community are:

- **Beginning Year's Children Center operated by United Methodist Homes of Sharon**, \$6,700 to develop, conduct and evaluate a parenting skills program that will give parents of children under three years of age information about assisting in their child's development.
- **Geer Adult Day Care Center, Geer Nursing and Rehabilitation Center**, \$20,000 to provide transportation for non-emergency medical appointments for those in need and particularly for the elderly and the disabled and to

- improve communication and coordination among volunteers and other public transportation providers.
- **Greenwoods Counseling Services, Inc.**, \$5,000 to improve the organization's effectiveness and accountability to its constituent
 - The **Housatonic Youth Service Bureau**, \$50,000 to support and strengthen the organization's ability to carry out its mission of assisting youth in their positive growth and development.
 - **The Northwest Center for Family Services and Mental Health, Inc.**, \$25,000 for capacity building and convening efforts that will provide fully integrated behavioral and primary healthcare in our rural community.
 - **Northwestern CT AIDS Project, Inc.**, \$10,000 to reestablish HIV/AIDS prevention education services in the Foundation's service area.
 - **Women's Support Services/Sharon Center School**, \$10,000 to offer anti-bullying programs at Sharon Center School in grades K-8 that will reduce bullying behavior and incidents through a curriculum that promotes healthy relationships, increases awareness and good communication skills as alternatives and resources for dealing with bullies.

Award serving both CT and NY:

- **EMS Institute at Sharon Hospital, Inc.**, \$20,000 for capacity building and outreach to strengthen their ability to meet the emergency service needs of the residents in the tri-county area.

According to the Foundation's Executive Director, Nancy Heaton, "We are fulfilling our mission to improve the health and well being of the people living in our service area and we are proud and excited about the changes that have occurred because they have made an actual difference for the people living in our community."

The Foundation was established with the funds from the sale of the previous non-profit Sharon Hospital and is a supporting organization of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation. For more information about the Foundation call 1(800) 695-7210 or visit their website at www.fchealth.org.