



Yale-New Haven in the Community

November 2008

This newsletter highlights some of the many community outreach programs and services Yale-New Haven Hospital (YNHH) offers on an ongoing basis. Some are designed to improve access to care through health education and screenings for specific populations, while others seek to enhance the quality of life within our community.

Yale-New Haven in the Community is published by YNHH's Department of Community and Government Relations. Please contact community relations specialist Dee Melio if you have questions or would like more information.

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Partners in education

School readiness drive – During September’s United Way Days of Caring, Hospital employees donated and delivered a record-breaking 27,500 school supplies to two schools in New Haven. Students at Lincoln Bassett in New Haven’s Newhallville neighborhood and John C. Daniels in the Hill were thrilled and thankful to receive the supplies. Daniels’ students took the opportunity to turn one good deed into another! Learning about the damage done in Texas as a result of hurricane Ike, the students decided they wanted to donate half of their supplies to a school in Galveston.

Scholarships – As part of its community investment program with Hill Development Corporation, YNHH provided \$1,500 scholarships to four high school graduates from Hill Regional Career High School, Wilbur Cross High School and Eli Whitney. The students are pursuing their education in health-related fields.

Community outreach

Teen outreach – In September, chaplains from the Hospital’s Religious Ministries Department participated in an educational program with New Haven teens at the St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church’s Your Place Youth Center. The teens spoke with the chaplains about their experiences with gangs and violence. They met with a YNHH Emergency Department (ED) doctor and social worker who talked about people who come into the ED as a result of violence, how teens can try and avoid violence and how they can plan for productive and satisfying careers.

Transplantation & Organ Donation Fair – The Yale-New Haven Transplantation Center conducted a transplantation & organ donation fair on September 6 on the New Haven green to raise awareness of the need for organ donation. Organ recipients and their families joined Dr. Sukru Emre and transplantation center staff, hospital administrators and others to hear first-hand accounts of how organ donation saves lives. About 25 people registered as organ donors.

Stroke Screenings – The Stamp Out Stroke Team participates in community health fairs and provides free stroke risk assessment screenings. Most recently, they participated at health fairs held at Muhammad Islamic Center in Hamden and at St. Matthews Church in New Haven.

Summer Youth Programs – YNHH honored its commitment to Hill Development Corporation (HDC) under its community investment agreement by donating \$50,000 to HDC for summer youth programs. For the third consecutive year, about 150 Hill youth participated in summer camps and fun, educational activities at Farnam Neighborhood House, Boys & Girls Club of New Haven, HDC summer camp, Soap Box Derby program and Uniting our Youth.



YNHH going tobacco free

Beginning January 1, 2009 Yale-New Haven Hospital will be tobacco free both inside and outside. Smoking and tobacco use by employees, visitors, patients and vendors will be prohibited on and around the perimeters of property owned, leased or maintained by YNHH.

A team of employees, both smokers and non-smokers, from throughout the Hospital are working together to roll out the initiative and help communicate and educate employees, visitors and patients about the new policy and resources available to them. In the near future, the Hospital will share the exact boundaries where smoking will be prohibited.

As part of this effort, YNHH is also developing a policy about inpatients leaving hospital buildings. As of January 1, 2009 YNHH inpatients must remain inside hospital buildings.

Tommy Fund holiday cards

The Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer and Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital are promoting the fight against pediatric cancer through the annual sale of holiday greeting cards. The cards help raise funds to meet the educational, recreational and treatment needs of children with cancer. All of the Tommy Fund cards are designed by young artists who are receiving treatment at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital.

Tommy Fund holiday cards are on sale now at the YNHH Atrium Gift Shop, all southern Connecticut AAA motor clubs, and through the Tommy Fund web site, www.tommyfund.org. For more information, contact the Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer at 1-800-974-5559.

Community outreach (continued)

Free Bike Helmets – Trauma Center staff provided bike safety information, demonstrated proper helmet fittings and gave away 162 free bike helmets at the East Rock Summit in July.

Clergy Forum – In October, YNHH welcomed clergy from throughout greater New Haven to an all-day clergy forum designed to familiarize clergy members with the Hospital and its programs and services. Hospital administrators from Religious Ministries, Human Resources, Smilow Cancer Hospital, Department of Community Health, Payor Relations, Volunteer & Patient Services and the Emergency Department shared information on their programs and services. After the program, several clergy members took a tour of the Smilow Cancer Hospital.

Support for non-profit organizations

Employee Leadership Training – The Department of Community & Government Relations and the Yale New Haven Health System (YNHHS) Institute for Excellence (IFE) are collaborating to provide local non-profit organizations with free employee leadership training. The IFE offers dynamic learning experiences through high-quality educational initiatives and other support services that enhance leadership growth and development, and inspire excellence in others. Slots in appropriate courses are being reserved for management staff at non-profit organizations. Registration is on an ongoing basis and non-profits can contact Dee Melio at 688-5671 for further information.

Columbus House – Recently, the city of New Haven had to cut its funding for an overflow shelter run by Columbus House. It was doubtful that the shelter would be able to open for more than a month or two during the winter months. When YNHH learned about this situation, it quickly responded by donating a \$20,000 challenge grant through the United Way of Greater New Haven to encourage others in the community to donate. Due to the Hospital's support and the support of others in the community, the overflow shelter is now open.

Contributing to youth – YNHH's commitment to youth does not stop with the dollars it provides to youth initiatives through its community investment programs with the city of New Haven and Hill Development Corporation. The Hospital also contributes to many community non-profits that serve youth with educational programs, after-school and enrichment activities, skill building and providing a place to call home. Some of the organizations are ACES, Amistad Academy, Best Buddies Connecticut, Boys & Girls Club of New Haven, Christian Community Action, Concepts for Adaptive Learning, Coordinating Council for Children in Crisis, Health Professionals Recruitment and Exposure Program, John C. Daniels School, L.E.A.P., Life Haven, LULAC Head Start, New Haven Scholarship Fund, Read to Grow, St. Martin dePorres Academy, Vincent Mauro School, Washington Elementary School and Youth Continuum.