

Access to  
Services



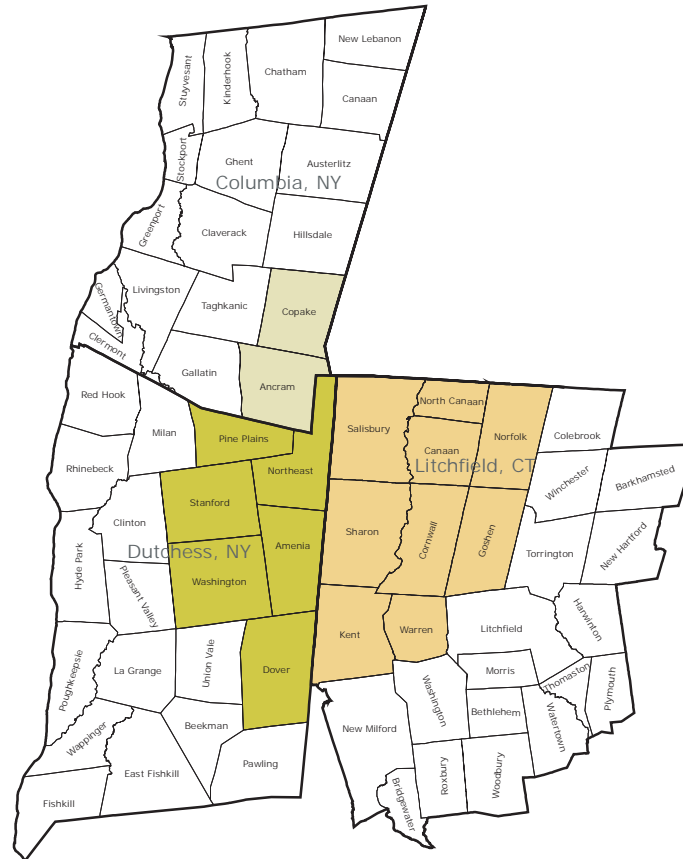
FOUNDATION  
*for*  
COMMUNITY  
HEALTH

Prevention, Access, Collaboration

Annual Report

Prescription Assistance Fund

Towns Served by The Foundation for Community Health



The Foundation for Community Health was initially funded with the net assets of the sale and conversion of Sharon Hospital and is a supporting organization of the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

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Design: Douglas Gould and Co.  
Photography: Anne Day Photography

# Listening, learning, growing

In listening to the people who live and work in our communities this is an important lesson the Foundation for Community Health has learned.

Though we have had to spend a great deal of time and energy over the last year in building a sound structure for the Foundation, we nonetheless devoted a great deal of attention to clarifying our mission and developing a vision for our core work – improving the physical and mental health of the people and communities served by Sharon Hospital. To this end, the Foundation for Community Health focused on listening to our neighbors, learning about their health related needs and growing our knowledge and capacity to help them live healthier lives.

This process began with a review of existing health assessments and surveys that had been done previously. We built upon this information by compiling a wide variety of census data to create a detailed picture of our community. With this information, we began talking directly to members of the community, local leaders and health care providers so the Foundation could deepen its understanding of

the current state of health needs and resources for the region. The analytical heart of this outreach, however, was an in-depth survey of healthcare and social service providers. The survey asked these providers to identify the most critical health-related needs of the people and communities they serve. Lastly, we conducted a series of community-based focus groups to learn more about individual perceptions of these needs and resources.

We learned that our communities are dealing with the same diseases and health-related issues that plague most Americans. Cancer, unintentional injuries and heart disease are leading causes of death nationally and locally. And as is true in other parts of the country, significant numbers of our neighbors are without adequate health insurance. Not surprisingly, the most vulnerable among us are our youth, the elderly, the disabled, and those who struggle financially to meet their most basic needs.

It also became clear that there were local factors that influence our health outcomes and require further exploration. The lack of adequate

transportation in our rural area was identified as the major barrier to accessing care, followed by lack of financial resources, a shortage of providers (especially Medicaid providers), and a general lack of knowledge of available services and resources.

In addition, our research and outreach has shown us that our area has a tremendous need for comprehensive mental health and substance abuse services for both adults and children. Physicians don't know where to refer people with these issues, schools feel inadequate in meeting the challenges of providing prevention and support services, and parents and other family members need more skills and resources to help them deal with these issues at home. In general, the system was described as overwhelmed with 'crisis' care — with little to no resources for prevention and early intervention efforts.

Third, we learned that both Connecticut and New York, like most other states, have limited local access to quality oral health information and affordable dental care. This need for services exists at



*Too many of our neighbors in the Harlem Valley and the Litchfield Hills cannot get the healthcare and services they need.*

*Prevention  
Access  
Collaboration*

# Listening, learning, growing

## Our Values

### Respect

We believe that every human being has equal worth.

### Advocacy

We are committed to identifying underlying causes of the many societal disparities that affect the health and well being of our communities and advocating for changes that can have a positive impact.

### Accountability

We understand our obligation to be accountable for our decisions, actions and our stewardship of the charitable funds entrusted to us.

### Excellence & Efficiency

We strive for excellence and efficiency in assessing the needs of the community, in creating opportunities to respond to these needs, and in enabling effective collaborations between consumers, providers, and donors.

a time when studies have shown the critical relationship between good oral health and the ability to be healthy and productive. Improving oral health, in other words, is critical to improving the overall health and well-being of our communities.

The outcome of our needs assessment process, which shows the need to improve mental health care, oral health care and access to services, forms the foundation for our initial grantmaking strategy. In the coming years, we will continue to listen, learn and grow in order to increase our ability to have a positive, lasting impact on the health of our communities.

We at the Foundation believe that “health” is more than the absence of disease. We have adopted the Institutes of Medicine’s definition:

“Health is a state of well being of the mind, body and spirit as well as the capability to function in the face of changing circumstances.”

We further believe that:

“improving health is not solely the responsibility of the individual, but rather a shared responsibility with health care providers, public health officials, and a variety of other members of the community.”

With this broad definition of health, the Foundation for Community Health has determined that its primary goal is to work together with community leaders, health service providers, policy makers, and with you, to build healthier lives for those who are in greatest need in our communities.

Nancy Heaton  
Executive Director

# Grantees

The Foundation for Community Health For Year 2004 Grants Total = \$136,909

The Foundation for Community Health, Inc. (FCH) awarded grants totaling \$136,909 to seven organizations to help individuals in need, to enhance local emergency medical response services, to expand the availability of non-emergency medical transportation, and to support capacity building efforts by local non-profits.

Initial results of the Foundation's assessment and understanding of the specific health needs of its communities quickly identified transportation as a key factor in accessing healthcare. While non-

emergency medical transportation is the most frequently identified barrier to care, the need to ensure the success of local volunteer medical emergency response teams and ambulance squads in the area was also highlighted.

The Foundation is aware that these small grants are not the long term answer to the almost overwhelming issue of transportation, according to Nancy Heaton, FCH's Executive Director. "Although we recognize that these grants are not going to solve the issues regarding the lack of access to medical transportation

in our area, we at FCH feel the grants will help to fill specific needs while we work with both the consumers and providers to develop a vision and a plan to better address these needs in the future."





Support is offered to local EMS ambulance squads for equipment acquired through a grant from FCH, via the Emergency Medical Services Institute.

Examples of purchases they might make are:

Automated Electronic Defibrillators (AED), Computers, Stretchers, Stair chairs

## Prevention

### EMS Institute Sharon, CT **\$36,000**

Both health service providers and local residents have indicated that the availability of emergency services is a critical part of quality rural life and that the volunteer services should be supported. FCH has chosen to provide funding for capital purchases and supplies through a one-time grant of up to \$2,000 for each of the 18 volunteer ambulance/EMS squads operating in the towns served by FCH to enhance the provision of mobile emergency services.

The grants are being administered through the EMS Institute of Sharon, CT, which is a non-profit organization designed to provide support services to the local EMS squads. The Institute will act as the fiduciary agent for processing the grants.

## Grantees

### Prescription Assistance Fund **\$31,185**

The Prescription Assistance Fund program offers financial assistance of up to \$250 per month for eligible participants to pay for prescription medication costs. This fund was created using the "free bed" funds given to directly care for individuals not able to cover their medical expenses. Individuals are eligible for this fund if they have a household income at or below 300% of the federal poverty guideline; are not eligible for Medicaid; and have exhausted resources of other local funds. Grants to administer the fund were given to the following organizations, which determine eligibility and make payments to the pharmacies:

Mr. Brown is retired, has cancer, and has been undergoing chemotherapy for the past 18 months. He is living on Social Security and has Medicare, but no prescription insurance coverage.

### NW Connecticut Council of Governments **\$12,600**

For residents of the Northwestern corner of Litchfield County in Connecticut. (Please note that the respective town social service worker completes the eligibility application and forwards the requests to NW CT COG).

### Dutchess County Community Action Agency **\$15,750**

For residents of the eastern corridor of Dutchess County in New York.

### Columbia County Healthcare Consortium, Inc. **\$2,835**

For residents of the towns of Ancram and Copake, New York.

Eligible participants included persons with no health insurance, Medicare beneficiaries who do not receive coverage of medicine, other insured persons with no prescription coverage, and insured persons who cannot afford the co-payment costs. Between July and December, 2004 over 52 persons were served with more than 120 prescriptions.

# Grantees



Mr. Hoag is applying for assistance with his medication expenses at the local town hall social services department with Mary Conklin.

Northwest Center for Family Service & Mental Health, Lakeville, CT  
**\$ 5,000**

In collaboration with the Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation and the Dyson Foundation, FCH provided \$5,000 to Northwest Center for Family Services & Mental Health, to support the cost of a nonprofit business analysis designed to use a financial lens to help the agency understand how financial history and business structure can inform future plans and decisions. Under the direction of new management, the Northwest Center board will begin a strategic planning process in 2005 and this analysis will provide a base for their plans.



As the primary provider of mental health services in Northwestern CT, the Foundation supported the efforts of The Northwest Center for Family Service and Mental Health, Inc. to strengthen its ability to better serve our community.

## Collaboration



Mrs. Wallace is being picked up at her home to go for a dialysis treatment in Torrington, CT, approximately 25 miles away. The bus will pick her up later in the day for the return trip home, enabling her to receive regular vital treatments while maintaining her independence.

# Access

## Geer Adult Day Care Center Public Transportation Canaan, CT **\$29,388**

To expand access to transportation services in Northwestern CT, especially for non-emergency medical and health-related appointments, FCH looked for existing services that could be augmented to expand the times and locations of the services to more people.

*The Geer Adult Day Center* has been providing “dial-a-ride” transportation to community members for many years. A grant of \$29,388 was provided for one year to expand the hours of operation of their service, including early morning and evening hours. In the first month of service the service gained 7 new riders from 4 different towns.

# Grantees

## EMS Institute Sharon, CT **\$15,000**

FCH funded the EMS Institute to hire a consultant to assist the Institute in centralizing and maintaining the agency database, developing systems for better coordination of education and training services, facilitating communication with and between squads, and executing the grantmaking responsibilities of the Institute.

## North East Community Council, Millerton, NY **\$20,336**

Senior citizens in the Amenia and Wassauc areas of Dutchess County were not being served by public transportation or other means to get to medical appointments, shopping and outside social activities. Through collaborative efforts, the Foundation facilitated the gift of a wheelchair-accessible 8 passenger bus from Sharon Health Care Center which was refurbished and forwarded with an operational grant of \$20,336 for the first year to the North East Community Council (as part of a 3 year grant). The Council will provide transportation to non-emergency medical appointments, shopping and other appointments for individuals who reside in the Town of Amenia, enabling them to maintain their independence and attend to their personal needs. The grant is also a result of a collaborative between FCH, the Dyson Foundation, the Dutchess County Community Foundation and the United Way of Dutchess County to address the needs of isolated seniors.



# FY2005 Grantmaking Strategy

The Foundation will initiate its first grantmaking strategy this coming year. Acknowledging our relatively new role in the community, the Foundation intends to use this year's funding as an opportunity to learn more about the issues, those who need services, the providers, and current systems of services. The Foundation's grantmaking will give priority to prevention and early intervention efforts, increasing access to services, and building effective collaborations across all areas of funding.

The Foundation has designed its plan for grantmaking this year to focus on the three priority areas identified by the needs assessment process: mental health, oral health and access to services.

## Mental Health

Grantmaking in the area of mental health will focus on building collaborations, supporting infrastructure and capacity building, and providing educational and training opportunities to mental health and substance abuse service providers.

## Oral Health

Grantmaking in the area of oral health will focus on a more in-depth assessment of the prevalence of disease, as well as opportunities for increased community awareness of oral health and its vital role in one's overall health and productivity.

## Access to Services

Grantmaking in the area of access will seek opportunities to increase the ability of organizations to reach out to those in need, as well as supporting efforts that make it easier for those in need to access health related services (e.g. expanding transportation, increasing awareness of services, reducing language barriers, etc.).

## Other Funding

### Prescription Assistance Fund

The Foundation will continue to direct and support its Prescription Assistance Program, which originated from the directives of several donor advised funds.



The North East Community Council will begin offering non-emergency transportation to seniors and disabled residents of the Town of Amenia, NY. Attending the official ribbon cutting to put the bus on the road are (left to right): Jenny Hansell, Director of the NE Community Center; Nancy Heaton, Executive Director of FCH; and Ann Sheiley, the Center's Transportation Coordinator.

## Collaboration

# Financial Reports

## Accountability

The Foundation for Community Health understands its obligation to be accountable for its decisions, actions and its stewardship of the charitable funds entrusted to it.

Copies of the Foundation's audited financial statements and Form 990 are available at our website [www.fchealth.org](http://www.fchealth.org)

## Statement of Financial Position 12/31/04

### Assets

Cash	95,529
BTCF Balanced Pool	16,622,427
Prepaid Expense	1,600
Leasehold Improvements	3,294
Furniture and Equipment	22,360
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>16,745,210</b>

### Liabilities

Grants Payable	25,336
Expenses Payable	30,338
Fund Balance	16,689,536
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>16,745,210</b>

## Statement of Financial Activities 12/31/04

### Revenue

Revenue from Trusts <sup>1</sup>	\$ 291,426
Contributions and Additions <sup>2</sup>	\$1,745,194
Earning/Loss on Investments	\$1,902,427
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$3,939,047</b>

### Expenses

Grant Awards	\$136,909
Program Development	\$94,183
Administration	\$163,426
Investment Management Fee	\$54,978
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$449,496</b>

**Net of Revenue and Expense \$3,489,551**

Unaudited report for year ending Dec. 31, 2004

<sup>1</sup>The Foundation receives regular income from approximately \$6.5 million held in trust by other fiduciaries.

<sup>2</sup>Contributions & Additions include: \$947,763 transferred from the sale of Sharon Health Care to United Methodist Homes; \$743,506 in cash transfers and \$51,130 of the McCall & Smith Medical Education Funds transferred from the escrow held by the former Sharon Hospital; \$1,493 grant from Dyson Foundation; and approximately \$1,300 in miscellaneous income.

# Board Members

Dr. John Charde, Chair  
Lakeville, CT

Catherine Roraback, Vice Chair  
Canaan, CT

Eileen M. Mulligan, Treasurer  
Lakeville, CT

Ellen "Wendy" Curtis, Secretary  
Millerton, NY

Steven Benardete  
Amenia, NY

Ella Clark  
West Cornwall, CT

Lea P. Davies  
Sharon, CT

Joan Dunlop  
Lakeville, CT

Dr. John William Gallup  
Salisbury, CT

Barbara Maltby  
Lakeville, CT

Richard Taber  
Salisbury, CT

Miriam Tannen  
Millbrook, NY

Dr. Anna Timell  
Cornwall, CT

John P. Tuke  
Millerton, NY



## Our Vision

The Foundation for Community Health is a leader and catalyst for health promotion, disease prevention, and universal access to services that contribute to the overall health and well being of our communities. The Foundation's commitment and actions are a model for other philanthropic organizations.

To accomplish its mission, the Foundation:

*Engages* the public in an ongoing dialogue on health issues and concerns in order to identify and prioritize current needs;

*Encourages* evidence-based approaches to addressing identified needs through responsive and strategic grantmaking;

*Adheres* to the highest standards of accountability in its operations; and

*Evaluates* regularly both its internal processes and the impact of its activities.

# Staff

Nancy L. Heaton  
Executive Director

Jan Miller  
Executive Assistant



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