



Yale-New Haven in the Community

March 2008

Partners in education

John C. Daniels School – Once again, YNHH departments and individual employees demonstrated their generosity by adopting Daniels School families during the holiday season purchasing gifts for students and each member of their families. Other employees purchased gift cards which were shared with needy, grateful families. As always, employees who witnessed the joy and thankfulness of the children and their families felt they received far more than they had given.

Washington Elementary School – Participating YNHH departments have been busily conducting their partnership programs with students at Washington School. Food & Nutritional Services conducted their classroom program for kindergarteners and their 4th grade partners will be visiting the hospital this month. During their visit, students participate in educational programs in the Nutrition Clinic that show them the nutritional value of their favorite foods and healthy food choices. They also tour the kitchen, bakery and food storage areas.

Hill Regional Career High School – The YNHH/Hill Regional Career High School partnership has been in existence for more than 15 years and continues to expose youth to the many opportunities in healthcare. One of the programs that is conducted annually in February is a Ground Hog Day Career Program that brings in YNHH professionals to introduce students to an array of healthcare opportunities. The two hour program, which reaches approximately 125 freshmen, is held in the school auditorium. The information shared with students includes health career information, salary ranges, training, education and degrees required.

School-based Health Centers – YNHH maintains school-based health centers at six schools throughout New Haven, Branford and Hamden. One center is located at the Vincent E. Mauro Math, Science & Technology Elementary School located in the Hill neighborhood of New Haven. Sue Peters, APRN, manages the center and under her direction many health education activities are undertaken during the academic year. They include classroom health education, a school wide student and parent hygiene campaign, a monthly parent newsletter, “Healthy Matters,” and much more. All of YNHH’s school-based health centers have a strong presence in their schools and provide not only health care and treatment but a wide range of health education and support programs.

Achievement First - Amistad Academy & Elm City Prep – YNHH is pleased to partner with Achievement First to invest in the education of students attending Amistad and Elm City Prep by providing \$12,000 for scholarships for students residing in the Hill neighborhood. Achievement First schools serve the most historically underserved portions of New Haven’s population and have a proven track record of positive student achievement.

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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Tommy Fund for Childhood Cancer

The Tommy Fund helps support pediatric oncology services at Yale-New Haven Children's Hospital and families of children with cancer. They provide direct and indirect financial support to families with children being treated at YNHCH, funding for a pediatric social worker, child life specialist and fellowships in pediatric oncology and much more.

Support Groups

Through the Social Work Department at YNHH, many support groups are offered on a regular basis. These include support groups for individuals with cancer, CPAP-sleep apnea, diabetes, pediatric grief & bereavement, gastric bypass, heart disease, transplantation and depression. To get more information, contact Social Work at 203-688-2195.

Financial Counseling Appointments

One-on-one appointments with English or Spanish-speaking counselors are offered to discuss hospital bills and available free care funds. For more information, call 203-688-5470, or for HUSKY enrollment, call 203-688-5473.

Sickle Cell Program

The Sickle Cell Program objectives are to educate the community, patients, families and health care providers about sickle cell disease, and reduce the number of hospitalizations and emergency room visits. The program offers high-risk adults the opportunity to be seen in YNHH's Hematology Clinic from 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays. For more information, contact Ellen Doram, 203-688-3373.

Community outreach

Community Breakfast – YNHH conducted its second Community Breakfast in January with representatives from New Haven schools, social service agencies, clergy, elected officials, community residents and members of the YNHH Community Council and Latino Advisory Council in attendance. Executive Vice President & COO, Rick D'Aquila, shared information on key services at YNHH with those in attendance. The goal of the breakfast is to share information about YNHH with community leaders.

Diabetes education series – Free classes offered throughout the year for adult patients and their families. Call the Yale Diabetes Center at 203-737-1932 for a schedule or to reserve a space.

Community Investment Program – Through its agreement with Hill Development Corporation, YNHH provides \$50,000 for a community liaison housed at HDC who supports the Hill management teams and promotes apprenticeship opportunities to work on the Smilow Cancer Hospital. The liaison promoted and identified potential apprentices who then had to complete interviews and pass testing on basic reading and math conducted by the CT Workforce Development Board, drug screenings, life skills training and OSHA safety training. Eleven potential apprentices passed all the requirements and were introduced to Turner Construction, who was very pleased with the level of interest that all participants showed. Participants are now individually applying to their specific trade of interest.

Support for non-profit organizations

Interfaith Cooperative Ministries: Inside at Night – YNHH supports this program with an annual donation of \$5,000 to help ensure the homeless have a place to stay during the coldest months of the year.

LEAP – Leadership, Education and Athletics in Partnership, Inc. (LEAP) provides positive developmental opportunities for youth and children from low-income backgrounds in New Haven. The hospital is an annual supporter of their LEAP Year event fundraiser.

New Life Corporation – YNHH continues to support New Life Corporation's Volunteer Individual Tax Assistance program that provides free income tax filing to low-moderate income workers. The program has consistently grown since its inception and has successfully ensured eligible workers receive Earned Income Tax Credits and federal refunds at no cost to the filers.

Local neighborhood events – The hospital helps fund local neighborhood events either through cash or in-kind (food, beverages, snacks, etc.) donations. Some of the events recently supported were the Bella Vista Thanksgiving Dinner, the Hill Central School Black History Month celebration, a Hill neighborhood Halloween party, a Fair Haven Christmas party and Christian Community Action's annual Thanksgiving food drive.