

**WINSTED HEALTH CENTER FOUNDATION
AND
WINSTED HEALTH CENTER**

Background and History

From 1902 until 1996 the residents of Northwest Connecticut and Southwest Massachusetts received health care services from the Winsted Memorial Hospital, previously the Litchfield County Hospital. Due to a variety of causes the Hospital declared bankruptcy in late 1996 and the doors to the Hospital closed on October 25, 1996. This left the community without acute care services, including emergency services and related ambulatory services, e.g., laboratory, radiology, etc. Area residents would not accept the elimination of all health services for the Northwest Corner and after extensive community fund raising efforts a new 501 C-3 Foundation, The Winsted Health Center Foundation, was incorporated and purchased the former Winsted Memorial Hospital facilities from the bankruptcy court.

The Winsted Health Center Foundation adopted the following Mission Statement:

The Winsted Health Center Foundation is committed to assuring the highest quality of health care for all residents of Northwest Connecticut and Southwest Massachusetts and providing the leadership and advocacy to reach this goal. The Foundation, in collaboration with appropriate partners, will assure the provision of ambulatory health care services that respond to the needs of the residents, will create programs to make health care services more accessible and will provide programs to assist residents in maintaining an optimum level of health.

The Winsted Health Center Foundation also adopted a unique operating strategy. It felt that it did not need to become a provider of services or a competitor in the health care field. The Board of Trustees felt its role was to identify community health needs, develop a program to meet those needs and then find an existing provider to deliver the needed services. **The Foundation thus created the Winsted Health Center, a 501 C-3 corporation, to coordinate the delivery of health services and to oversee the physical plant while the Foundation focused on raising funds to support these efforts.** One Board of Trustees oversees the activities of both the Foundation and the Center. This unique, but successful, strategy has not only resulted in bringing needed health services to the community but has done it at the lowest possible cost. The first goal was to restore those services most needed by the community. Thus, the Foundation reached out to Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, a community hospital located about 15 miles from Winsted, to become the first partner of the Winsted Health Center. In 1998 Charlotte Hungerford initiated a twelve hour emergency service complemented by a twenty four hour paramedic program. This brought critical emergency services back to the community. In order to enable this service to work effectively, and to provide other needed services to the community, Charlotte Hungerford also opened a laboratory service and radiology service, including mammography. Since 1998 the Charlotte Hungerford

Hospital has also initiated a cardiac rehabilitation service, pulmonary rehabilitation service and sleep laboratories at the Winsted Health Center.

Early in 1999 Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, a large teaching facility in Hartford, Connecticut became the Health Center's second partner. There was a need for quality primary care physician office space on the campus of the Winsted Health Center. Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center agreed to rehabilitate the 1902 building, the original hospital, for such offices. Upon the completion of this rehabilitation the building was occupied by physicians with privileges at three different hospitals and representing family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics, surgery, and selected subspecialties. In addition to making space available for physicians this also enhanced patient convenience by placing physician's offices in close proximity to the laboratory, radiology, and other services. Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center also opened a physical medicine service in this building to serve the public.

In 1999 the Veterans Administration opened a Primary Care Center to serve veterans in the area. The Center initially operated one day a week with a part-time physician. The Center is now open five days a week and has a panel of 4,000 patients who receive their primary medical care at this site. In 2004, the Winsted Health Center gained another partner when the Northwest Center for Mental Health and Family Services initiated services.

Who Do We Serve

The Winsted Health Center, and its partners, provides health services to 30,000 people in Barkhamsted, Colebrook, Hartland, East Hartland, West Hartland, New Hartford, Norfolk, North Canaan, Riverton, Winchester, Winsted as well as Sandisfield, Mass and Tolland, Mass.

Operating Structure

The Winsted Health Center Foundation and the Winsted Health Center are governed by a sixteen person Board of Trustees. These Trustees are appointed by Corporators, not less than 40 or more than 60, which represent the community. The Board of Trustees functions through the following committees; Executive, Finance, Fund Raising, Education and Public Relations, Nominating, Bylaws, Senior Housing, Facilities, Personnel, and Hospitality. In order to focus on its operating strategy of creating partnerships the Center has kept its staff small employing only an Executive Director, Facilities Manager, part time Administrative Assistant, part-time housekeeper, and limited contract help.