Foundation for Community Health
Dear Neighbors,

It was nearly five years ago that the idea of creating a new Foundation solely dedicated to improving the health and mental health of the residents in your local communities became a reality. Just as a doctor prescribes a treatment to fight an illness, the Foundation for Community Health was ‘prescribed’ to work on your behalf to improve access to services and to promote you and your neighbor’s overall health.

At its inception, the Foundation for Community Health worked closely with the communities to ‘diagnose’ the areas of greatest need. This assessment identified three critical problems: the lack of mental and oral health services and problems with access to healthcare, which included transportation and financial barriers. Continuing assessments confirm the priority of these three areas.

The next step was to develop ‘treatment plans.’ In doing so, the Foundation found that the greatest impact was gained from the use of a variety of strategies, each focusing on different aspects of a particular problem. The strategies available to the Foundation in designing its programs include:

• Bringing people together & fostering collaborations

• Improving the capacities of local non-profits and providers

• Conducting and sharing research

• Funding program grants

• Conducting communication activities & campaigns

• Advocating for public policy change

In addition, several of these strategies have been used to create a support system so that a ‘treatment’ could be truly effective and that health improvements could be realized.

By engaging local leaders from the very beginning to help design its strategies and programs, the Foundation has sought to build a natural base of support for its programs and actions. Depending on the issue, this support is augmented by communication strategies that inform and engage the larger community.

With its eye on the horizon and a commitment to long term solutions, the Foundation’s specific focus may change, but the ‘prescribed’ mission of the Foundation for Community Health — to improve the health of our community — will remain constant.

Sincerely,

Nancy
Executive Director
Grantmaking Overview

Foundation for Community Health Has Awarded Almost Two Million Dollars to Date

Since its inception in 2003, the Board of Directors of the Foundation for Community Health has invested nearly two million dollars into the community by funding various health related services and strategies.

Grantmaking Strategy
The Foundation’s grantmaking strategy gives priority to prevention and early intervention efforts, increasing access to services, and building effective collaborations across all areas of funding. The Foundation designed its plan for grantmaking to focus on the three priority areas identified by its needs assessment process. These areas are: mental health, oral health and access to services.

Mental Health
Grantmaking in the area of mental health focuses on building collaborations, supporting organizational infrastructure and capacity building, providing educational and training opportunities to mental health and substance abuse service providers, and supporting prevention and early intervention programs.

Oral Health
Grantmaking in the area of oral health focuses on further assessing the status of oral health in our communities, increasing access to care, and raising community awareness of the vital role of oral health in one’s overall health and productivity.

Access to Services
Grantmaking in the area of access seeks 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
The Foundation manages and administers a number of ‘donor restricted’ funds which are established by an individual(s) to support a specific purpose or program. The Foundation has also set aside funds for ongoing needs assessments and to be able to respond to “New Opportunities” which may be outside our current priority areas but are of interest and concern to our communities.
Prevention, Access and Collaboration are not only goals for addressing mental/behavioral health services — they are necessities!

It has become clear that prevention programs addressing both mental health and substance abuse can be extremely effective in helping many individuals to avoid the personal and financial costs of living with substance abuse and/or a mental illness.

In addition, we have learned that only when mental health services are treated on parity with physical health services are there significant gains reflected in population-based studies that track effective mental health treatment. Therefore, access to these services needs to be at least equal to any other health care service.

Lastly, the rapidly changing nature of how these services are funded and delivered in our society today necessitates collaboration on the part of all — private practitioners, community organizations, government agencies, community advocates, and health insurance companies — working toward the development of a comprehensive behavioral health service delivery system.

The Foundation for Community Health has invested in all of these areas over the past few years and is committed to continuing its efforts in collaboration with all parties involved, particularly local providers of mental health and substance abuse services, in order to ensure a full spectrum of effective behavioral health services in our communities.

“Astr Home for Children, Inc., Poughkeepsie, NY

Paperwork Load and Flow Kaizen $35,000
To increase the effectiveness and efficiency of internal operations and paperwork.

Housatonic Youth Service Bureau, Inc., Falls Village, CT

Capacity Building Year 3 $35,000
To support a 3rd year of strategic planning to strengthen the organization’s ability to carry out its mission to assist youth in their positive growth and development.

Northwest Center for Family Services and Mental Health, Inc., Lakeville, CT

Ensuring Continuity of Care $25,000
To ensure that area clients will be able to maintain services during a time of transition in the administration.

“We were able to help a teen boy transition successfully into high school. The last several years had been emotionally difficult for him, resulting in aggressive behavior, family conflict, loss of friends and police involvement. Through supportive counseling and participation in the Wilderness Club, he has a better understanding of his own strengths, has learned how to interact positively with others and can now see himself as someone who can succeed.”

— Cynthia Bianchi, Executive Director Housatonic Youth Service Bureau
Mental Health/Behavioral Health (continued)

Prevention & Early Intervention

The McCall Foundation, Inc., Torrington, CT

**Character Counts** $10,000
To fund a substance abuse prevention program designed for children in grades 1-6 that focuses on building character through anger management training, social skills development and behavior modification.

Mental Health Association of Columbia & Green Counties, Inc., Hudson, NY

**Common Sense Parenting for Ancram & Copake** $7,830
To fund Parent Education in the Taconic Hills School District for parents of all ages.

Mental Health Association of Dutchess County, Inc., Poughkeepsie, NY

**Kids on the Block** $10,000
To fund a nationally recognized educational puppet theater program that provides a safe and fun environment in which children learn a variety of health and life skills as well as increasing their awareness and understanding of differences among people.

Mountainside Foundation, Inc., Canaan, CT

**Outreach Program** $10,000
To fund a program that brings together young residents of Mountainside with local middle and high school students to share their experiences and thereby encourage them to avoid cigarettes, alcohol, and illegal drugs.

Susan B. Anthony Project, Inc., Torrington, CT

**Community Education and Outreach Project** $10,000
To fund a program that provides prevention education in the Goshen and Warren school systems about bullying/teasing, dating and domestic violence and sexual assault.

Women’s Support Services, Inc., Sharon, CT

**Promoting Healthy Relationships in Region #1 grades 5-8** $10,000
To fund a prevention education program entitled Respect, which helps students understand the components of healthy and unhealthy relationships.

**Do the Right Thing** $4,000
To fund an interactive theater program that addresses bullying, respect and how to nurture healthy relationships.

― Goshen Center School Second Grader for Character Counts

“`You taught me the greatest lesson. I learned that being a friend to others is the greatest gift I have ever gotten . . . I also learned that the “I Statement” teaches others how to be respectful . . . Star Person taught me that I can talk to lots of adults and they’ll understand what I am talking about.”

― Goshen Center School Second Grader for Character Counts

“When you came every Monday, it was 1,000% FUN . . . On Tuesday, we wrote this letter to you and got four SKITTLES! I really liked when you taught us the “I statement” . . . This is something I made up for the inside of Sponge Bob! Listen: WE LOVE & CARE!”

― Goshen Center School Second Grader for Character Counts
Two Award Categories:
Increase Access to Services
Transportation Services

What exactly does ‘access’ mean in the context of receiving health services in rural communities and specifically in the greater Harlem Valley of New York and the northern Litchfield Hills of Connecticut?

Not surprisingly, transportation is identified as the primary issue affecting access to health services in our area. Other issues identified as barriers to obtaining care include: the lack of local providers such as dentists, doctors or specialists, especially those willing to accept Medicaid; lack of knowledge about local services; and increasingly, language and/or cultural issues as new people move into the area.

Less obvious factors affecting access include the fact that:
• Our communities are not perceived as in need by those in government and as a result do not often benefit from either funding or solutions designed for urban areas.
• Stigma can influence the use of services in rural communities, especially if that care is perceived to be for those in need, "someone else", or those with mental health issues or HIV/AIDS.
• A small population base makes it financially difficult for new services and providers to thrive in our communities.

To address such issues, the Foundation has committed annual funding for direct transportation services as well as other innovative ways of improving access. This includes research to learn more about best practices in health care delivery and rural transportation as well as convening stakeholders to identify potential points of collaboration to improve or assist access.

Looking forward, the Foundation plans to utilize a variety of communication strategies to inform its constituents, as well as key funding and policy decision-makers, of its findings and the unique issues confronting access to services in rural areas.

I was in my office, when our local ambulance squad was dispatched out for a 13 month old baby that was choking and not breathing. I work less than half a mile from the baby’s home in Millerton, NY, so I grabbed my coat and went directly there.

When I arrived just minutes later, you can imagine how hysterical the mom was as she pointed at her slightly blue and barely conscious baby in a portable swing. I immediately picked up the baby . . . opened his mouth and saw that formula was blocking his airway . . . thought about what to do . . . turned the baby over on my arm . . . cleared the airway while cradling his head . . . and then the fluid just drained from his mouth and he began to cry. What a great sound!

I amazed myself because I never panicked! I just did what needed to be done and it worked! Later, when I had time to reflect on what I had done, I couldn’t stop thinking ‘Wow, I really did that!’

This baby’s life was saved because of my CPR training at the EMS Institute with Dave Cadwell. Thank you for these courses that help us to stay skilled as first responders, EMTs and paramedics.”

– Al Tortorella
Millerton Fire Rescue
Sharon Fire Department Ambulance


Increase Access to Services

Connecticut Office of Rural Health, Winsted, CT

**Upper Litchfield County Transportation Study** $11,267

To develop a draft of a plan to improve transportation services in Northern Litchfield County through increased coordination and collaboration of both services and funding sources.

EMS Institute, Inc., Sharon, CT

**Capacity Building** $25,000

3rd year of capacity building support to focus on recruitment and retention, expanding training abilities and to develop a plan to increase operating revenue.

Hospice Volunteers of Northwest CT (United Methodist Homes), Sharon, CT

**Volunteer Training Pilot Project** $10,000

To conduct a feasibility study on the creation of a regional Hospice volunteer training service while providing volunteer training and support for those on Medicare Hospice as well as those families not on Hospice, but dealing with terminally ill loved ones.

Litchfield County

**Train the Trainer Initiative** $9,500

To ensure that children with behavioral health concerns are identified and offered appropriate services and intervention by training a corps of local volunteer trainers to educate and support parents of children diagnosed with mental illness as well as educating professionals working with these families.

Noble Horizons, Inc., Salisbury, CT

**HealthWise 2007** $1,000

Provide general support of a health fair designed to provide free health screenings to all attendees. (Approximately 300 + men, women, and children)

Transportation Services

Geer Adult Day Center, Geer Foundation, Inc., Canaan, CT

**Transportation Program** $20,000

To support additional hours of transportation for non-emergency medical appointments and to convene meetings of local transportation providers to better coordinate services.

“**We really try to accommodate and help our riders by meeting their needs. For instance, even though our hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., we were able to help a Sharon resident get to Torrington in time to take the 8 a.m. NW Transit District bus to the UCONN Health Center in Farmington, CT. Also, a Lakeville resident needed transportation to and from radiation treatments in Torrington, 4 days a week for six weeks, and we were able to provide her with transportation for all of her appointments. Sometimes, we will also get involved in arranging for the medical appointments such as when we did this for a Canaan resident because it was getting too confusing for her to be the middle person coordinating all the dates and times. These stories are typical of the service that we provide with the support of the Foundation.**”

– Christine Fraser

Transportation Coordinator, Geer Adult Day Center

“This grant put into action a collaborative effort to enhance non-emergency transportation services in upper Litchfield County. An advisory group was formed that studied current services and their weaknesses in the area as well as transportation services in rural areas in other states. The group remains committed and has merged with others interested in this initiative. We are now developing a pilot program that will improve and address the transportation gaps.”

– Barbara Berger, Director

Connecticut Office of Rural Health
The Foundation for Community Health was very pleased to be able to make awards totaling nearly $250,000 in support of oral health in 2007. Prior to these awards, the Foundation had devoted its efforts to the assessment and review of the status of oral health in our service area in order to determine where it could be most effective. Consequently, the Foundation developed an action plan and an issue brief that was shared with legislators, administrators of state and county health departments, educators, health professionals and civic leaders in both New York and Connecticut. The plan has three long term goals to guide the Foundation's work to improve the oral health of our community.

• To decrease the need for oral health services by establishing portable prevention services that will initially target our youth and will encourage ongoing prevention activities and behaviors.

• To increase the demand for services (i.e. encouraging people to seek oral health care) by increasing community awareness of the importance of oral health.

• To increase the supply of providers by supporting local and statewide efforts to improve the reimbursement rates received by dentists from the Medicaid system and by funding the establishment of new services targeting those with limited ability to pay.

### Oral Health Initiative

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health &amp; Wellness Center of Greater Torrington, Inc., Torrington, CT</th>
<th>Construction of a Dental Clinic</th>
<th>$100,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To establish a new dental practice at the local community health center located in Torrington, CT that will increase access to oral health services in Litchfield County.</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hudson River Healthcare, Inc., Amenia, NY</th>
<th>Dental Van</th>
<th>$97,000</th>
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<tr>
<td>To establish dental services in a mobile van at the community health center facility in Amenia, NY.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial, Inc., Torrington, CT</th>
<th>School-based Preventive Oral Health</th>
<th>$45,344</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To develop and conduct school-based dental services for Region #1 school district in CT providing education, screening, sealant and referral for treatment services.</td>
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</table>

“On behalf of the students at the Cornwall Consolidated School and myself, I would like to thank you and the Foundation for Community Health for making the in-school dental clinic possible. . . . The students received excellent dental care along with invaluable dental education. . . . This program is extremely important. Our hope is to continue. . . . involving more students in both the current grades we serviced as well as possibly extending the services to grades 6, 7 and 8.”

– Martha Bruehl, RN, School Nurse
Cornwall Consolidated School

“Are you sure the kids are getting their teeth checked and cleaned? There’s an awful lot of laughing coming from that room.”

– A School Principal to the School Nurse at a Region #1 School
Prescription Assistance Fund

The Foundation for Community Health’s Prescription Assistance Fund helps individuals and families pay for their prescription costs. In order to qualify, individuals or families must be ineligible for Medicaid and their earnings have to be at or less than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level (e.g. $60,000 annually for a family of four). The funding assistance is capped at $250 per month per person.

Applicants in Connecticut apply for the assistance through their respective town social service department. Applicants in Dutchess County, New York apply at the Dutchess County Community Action Partnership and applicants residing in the New York towns of Ancram and Copake apply at the Columbia County Healthcare Consortium.

FCH Prescription Assistance Fund Provides Valuable Information

Aware that the information gathered by its Prescription Assistance Program would be uniquely local in nature, the Foundation for Community Health conducted analyses of the data accumulated in its first two years of operation in order to obtain some insight into issues involved in accessing medications and into identifying specific illnesses impacting members of our community. Two of the major findings included:

• Most requests were to cover medications that treat chronic illnesses like heart disease, asthma, diabetes as well as depression and anxiety.* This program has provided many with regular access to the medications required to treat and stabilize their conditions. It is generally believed that regular access to appropriately prescribed medications will result in lower overall healthcare costs and better health outcomes.

• Roughly one third of the population of the Foundation’s towns have incomes at or lower than 300% of the Federal Poverty Level and are, therefore, potentially eligible for our program. The study also found that many of those eligible for a number of assistance programs such as Medicaid, Medicare Part D, ConnPACE, or EPIC, have not applied for this aid.**

“I felt particularly good about being able to help a 21 year old woman in a three-month, in-between job situation. She has chronic medical conditions that require taking expensive medications. Because of the Foundation and this fund, we were able to help her stay on her meds until her insurance coverage began at her new job.”

– Jacqueline Goddeau, Senior Program Coordinator, Columbia County Community Healthcare Consortium, NY

* Assessment of the Pharmaceutical Cost Assistance Project conducted by Hanna Grossman, a local consultant who volunteered her time, can be found on our website at: http://www.fchealth.org/images/pdfs/FCH%20Drug%20Assistance%20Final%20Report.pdf
** Prescription Drug Finances conducted by David A. Grossman, a local consultant who volunteered his time, can be found on our website at: http://www.fchealth.org/images/pdfs/Prescription%20Drug%20Finances.pdf
Medical Education Fund

The Medical Education Fund at the Foundation for Community Health is dedicated to enhancing the knowledge of the health and science professionals serving our communities. The Fund is overseen by a Medical Education Committee comprised of members of the Foundation’s Board of Directors and the local medical association. The Committee arranges for an annual dinner lecture on a health topic that directly affects our communities. The information presented is always relevant to physicians as well as members of the allied health, science and academic fields. The dinner lecture format is designed to encourage personal interaction and is conducive to professional enrichment, sharing and networking for those in attendance.

The 2007 event was presented by Dr. Michael Simms, Director of Infectious Diseases & Infection Control at St. Mary’s Hospital in Waterbury, Connecticut. The lecture, titled Tick borne Diseases: Ecology/Epidemiology to Treatment, was presented on May 3rd at the Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville, Connecticut. Dr. Simms gave a detailed and extensive talk on the latest information available, including: clinical aspects and presentations, diagnosing, treatment, counseling, and prevention. His lecture also addressed current areas of controversy and uncertainty regarding these diseases.

Attendance was filled to capacity by members of the medical, science and academic community from New York and Connecticut and their feedback indicated that the presentation, approved for one Category 2 CME hour for physicians, was very well received.

“Thank you for sponsoring this entertaining and wonderful event. The Foundation and Dr. Simms are commended for providing timely and educational advice to our community. I eagerly anticipate the next seminar.”

– Dr. Douglas Finch
Hospital Infectious Disease Specialist
Sharon Hospital, Sharon, CT

“Dynamic speaker! Great topic! Great venue! Awesome food! Perfect subject! . . . wish there had been more time to ask more questions. I would go again.”

– Evan Hack, MD
Pediatrician, New Milford, CT

“The speaker was marvelous. I would definitely attend another event like this. The information . . . the ambiance . . . the food . . . all very good.”

– Robert Roth, Pharmacist
St. Joseph’s Medical Center
Yonkers, New York

(L-R) FCH Medical Education Fund Committee members, Dr. Bill Gallup, Dr. John Charde, Nancy Heaton and Dr. Dwight Miller with guest speaker, Dr. Michael Simms at the 2007 event.
Mindful of the fact that circumstances in our service area are always evolving, the Foundation for Community Health has remained attentive and receptive to new ideas and opportunities that do not meet the guidelines of the current Program Priority Areas, but that will nonetheless help our community to address and improve problematic or challenging conditions and to stay abreast of emerging issues. Consequently, the Foundation maintains some funds that are available for responding to such issues or requests. These funds can be used, for example, as a response to an emergency or unexpected event, a unique idea or pilot project, or a request to join a fellow funding partner in a collaborative effort to benefit our community.

**New Opportunities**

**Grantmakers in Health, Washington, DC**

**Annual Contribution** $2,500
To support the work and to maintain access to the latest information including trends, policies and technology in the health grantmaking community in order to strengthen the knowledge, skills and effectiveness of our staff and board members.

**Northwestern CT Community College Foundation, Winsted, CT**

**Nursing Program** $100,000
To fund the position of a full-time nursing director in the establishment of a new nursing education program based at the local community college.

**Tri-State Public Communications, Inc., Sharon, CT**

**Community CD Distribution** $620
To increase access of local residents to radio programs produced by WHDD that focus on improving the health and well being of the larger community.

**A situation such as this one will be avoidable very soon . . .**

“The desire for the RN degree kept me motivated to make the daily two-hour drive, morning and evening, to Pittsfield, MA. This was a huge commitment and hardship. Those four hours of commuting time cut into study, family and work time. I only wish that NCCC had an RN program. There is a great need for RN’s and there are no programs available in the northwest corner of Connecticut. NCCC is accessible, convenient and provides a high quality education.”

– Jane M. O’Grady, MA, RN

“. . . the Connecticut community colleges anticipate 1,400 qualified applicants to apply for admission to the current five nursing programs. They will be able to accept only 530-535 of these . . .” (Excerpt from the Nursing Program grant application to FCH, October, 2007.)

– Barbara Douglass, President
Northwestern CT Community College
Other Activities

Logic Model Workshop
The Foundation hosted a Logic Model Workshop in June, 2007 for grantees in order to help them with their grant applications and to enhance their expertise. The workshop was conducted by Cheryl Murray of Grantwriter’s Plus, LLC.

Prescription Assistance Workshop
The Foundation held an informational workshop for social service providers in September, 2007 on how to access free and discounted prescription drugs through pharmaceutical assistance programs. Roberta Downey, the Director of Program Outreach at NeedyMeds, gave the presentation.

Radio Show
(L-R): Co-hosts, Dave Cadwell, EMS Institute, and FCH’s Gertrude O’Sullivan, Producer of Focus on Health, a series of special programs on AM 1020 WHDD and 91.9 FM, sponsored by the Foundation about health issues that concern our community. Topics have included preventing and dealing with tick borne diseases, food safety & insect borne diseases, skin protection, staying in touch with your adolescent, Hospice and HIV/AIDS. Programs can be downloaded at the Foundation’s website and on robinhoodradio.com.

Legislative Breakfast
The Foundation for Community Health hosted, Accessing Prescriptions, a legislative forum about the affordability and availability of prescriptions in our community. The forum was attended by legislators, town officials and social service representatives from New York and Connecticut in June, 2007 in Amenia, NY. Presentations were made by administrators of the Foundation’s Prescription Assistance Fund, Fund clients and by David Grossman, the author of one of the reports commissioned by the Foundation.

Communications Seminar
In September, 2007, the Foundation co-sponsored an all-day Communications Seminar in collaboration with the Connecticut Health Foundation in order to provide assistance and support to our grantees and associates. The presenters, from Hershey/Cause of Santa Monica, California, conducted a multi-faceted event that included distributing copies of Communications Toolkit — A guide to navigating communications for the nonprofit world.
# Foundation for Community Health

**Financial Reports**

December 31, 2007 and 2006

## Statement of Financial Position

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<tr>
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<th>(unaudited) 2007</th>
<th>(audited) 2006</th>
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<td><strong>Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Net Assets (Fund Balance)</td>
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<td>$22,253,834</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td><strong>$22,392,936</strong></td>
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## Statement of Financial Activities

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<tr>
<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Revenue from Trusts(^1)</td>
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<td>Contributions and Additions(^2)</td>
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<td>Total Investment Earnings</td>
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<td><strong>$1,654,891</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,509,400</strong></td>
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\(^1\) The Foundation receives regular income from approximately $7.2 million held in trust by others.

\(^2\) Primarily consists of funds resulting from liquidation of the former non-profit Sharon Hospital assets.
“It does not seem that long ago that, as Nancy Heaton has noted in her letter, the Foundation was ‘prescribed to work on your behalf to improve access to health services and to promote you and your neighbor’s overall health’.

I am most impressed with the role that the Foundation has played in bringing people together, encouraging better communication, and supporting collaboration among the many organizations, towns and villages in both New York and Connecticut. By learning what each other is doing and by sharing experiences and practices, we can build on what we have accomplished already as well as continue to optimize our resources, minimize our isolation, and make even more significant improvements.

The success of the Foundation’s work is the result of many people who have committed significant time, energy, and enthusiasm. Among those that deserve thanks are the FCH Board of Directors who have given numerous hours and their expertise; Nancy Heaton who has led the Foundation and untiringly worked with many members of our communities; the staff at FCH who have demonstrated both commitment and initiative in supporting Nancy and the Board; and all of you who live and work in our communities.

Our ‘prescribed’ work has just begun and we look forward to continuing this important effort toward building a healthier community.”

– John Charde, MD, Chair