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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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### **For Immediate Release**

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### **Free in-School Dental Clinic for Region One Elementary Schools**

There will be a free in-school dental clinic offered this 2007 – 2008 school year in all of the Region #1 elementary schools for grades one through five. The Foundation for Community Health is pleased to announce that it has funded The Maria Seymour Brooker Memorial to conduct a one-year pilot program that will offer preventive dental services including oral health education in the schools of Kent, Cornwall, Sharon Center, North Canaan, Lee H. Kellogg, and Salisbury.

The dental care, provided by a registered dental hygienist, will include exams, cleaning, application of topical fluoride and dental sealants as needed. The oral health education program will provide age-appropriate oral health education. It is expected that this combination of dental care and prevention education will help to decrease the occurrence of dental caries within this school-aged population.

Parents are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity for their grade school children by signing the consent forms that will be sent home at the beginning of this school year. This will be an easy and convenient way to take care of some of your children's dental needs. The clinics will be conducted during school hours in a friendly and familiar environment within the school.

The Foundation funded Brooker Memorial, a non-profit in Torrington, CT, because it has extensive experience and expertise in providing oral health education and treatment to children. Since 1994, Brooker has been the primary provider of dental care for children in Litchfield County who are insured through the State of Connecticut Husky insurance plans or are uninsured.

This pilot program is a result of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade oral health assessments that were conducted by the Foundation for Community Health through the Harvard School of Dental Medicine in the fall of 2005. For more information call Brooker Memorial at 860-489-1328.