



# AmeriCares Free Clinics

Providing quality health care to the uninsured

FALL 2007

## The Weisman Clinic Opens in Bridgeport



Photo by Jane Hetherington

The new clinic is located at 115 Highland Avenue

The Weisman Clinic, an AmeriCares Free Clinic, opened its newest location in Bridgeport, CT, in September, to a crowd of nearly 100 onlookers including the city's mayor, John Fabrizi. The City of Bridgeport provides the rent-free space that houses the clinic in Bridgeport's Hollow section.

"I know what it's like firsthand to know someone who is uninsured or underinsured," said Mayor Fabrizi. "That is why I and many others in my administration worked so hard since 2003 to make this clinic a reality."

The clinic, one of three run by AmeriCares Free Clinics, has been providing free health care to the uninsured from a mobile medical unit since 2003. The new permanent location in Bridgeport features five examination rooms and as a result will be able to expand its operations. The other two locations are in Norwalk and Danbury.

This new clinic is named the Weisman Clinic, in honor of generous donor Fred Weisman, a longtime supporter of AmeriCares and a board member since

2003. His contribution to the AmeriCares Free Clinics includes a multi-year grant for Bridgeport and the purchase of the mobile medical unit in 1998, which has served the local community for nearly a decade. Weisman's impact extends well beyond financial support, as he played an active

role in designing the mobile medical unit and in facilitating the construction of this new location.

"We are extremely grateful to Fred for his loyalty and commitment to AmeriCares and the AmeriCares Free Clinics over the years," says AmeriCares President and CEO Curt Welling. "Fred has always offered his help on many levels and as a result has made a tremendous impact on the people of Bridgeport."

The Bridgeport construction was supported by funding from CHEFA (Connecticut Health and Education Facilities Authority), RBS National Bank and AmeriCares founders, Bob and Leila Macauley.

Since opening in 2003, the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Bridgeport has provided health care services valued at over \$2.7 million to more than 1,200 area residents. Providing general medical services to those ages 18 and older, as well as specialty care for patients with chronic medical conditions, the clinic has access to prescribed laboratory/diagnostic testing through partnerships with Advanced Radiology Associates, Bridgeport Hospital, Fairfield County Imaging, St. Vincent's Medical Center and Quest Diagnostics.

The clinic is open to patients by appointment on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

### The Importance of Giving

When financial advisor Carl Bailey of Bailey and Beatty Financial Services speaks to his clients, he is keenly aware of estate tax laws as he keeps in mind the needs of those in his community. Recently, AmeriCares Free Clinics was invited to Carl's office in Danbury to pick up a check for \$20,000 from one of his clients to benefit the the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Danbury.

"The IRS receives approximately 50% of the estate upon death of an individual on assets which exceed \$2 million. If there are IRA or pension assets, there is also state and federal income tax due, in addition to federal estate tax and state inheritance tax. This results in total taxes of approximately 70% for retirement accounts," explained Bailey.

"Contributing to a charity while one is still alive saves not only current income tax and later estate taxes, but also provides tremendous personal satisfaction."

Following his advice, Carl Bailey's client made a generous gift to the Danbury clinic. And, thanks to his far-sighted counseling, the Danbury clinic is fortunate to be named in his

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## Karen's Corner

Dear Friends,

Well, it is that time of year again... mailboxes begin to overflow with year end requests from nonprofit organizations filled with compassion and

compelling client stories. How do *you* choose?

Among the most common reasons to choose a charitable cause are the connections one feels to the mission as well as the desire to make a difference and feel part of the response to the many complex issues of human suffering. Leila Macauley recently defined this as "purpose" – in the case of the clinics, we provide the purpose to channel your inner feelings of confusion over the vast disparity in the health care system between those who have health insurance and those who do not. We provide an opportunity for you to help close to home... your neighbors ... where you can see the results of our combined efforts. We offer an opportunity to give back to your community and be part of a team of over 350 volunteers, hospitals and laboratories who *together* make a profound impact on thousands of lives.

How *do* you choose? For many of you, your support of our program began years ago with a visit to the clinic, whether to give your valuable time as a volunteer or simply to find out more about our program and the tangible results we have been able to achieve for the community. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your help and hope you will find it in your hearts to be generous as you receive our annual appeal letter coming to your mailbox soon!

Many thanks and all the best for a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy New Year.

With gratitude,

By **Karen Gottlieb, RN, MBA**  
Executive Director  
AmeriCares Free Clinics

**Sign up for the AmeriCares Free Clinics e-news!**  
E-mail your name and address to  
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with "newsletter" in the subject line.



## News from Norwalk

Recently, a 14-year-old boy was sent home from school with an unusual rash on his body and was told he could not return to school until he was seen by a doctor. As he was a resident of Norwalk and without health insurance, his mother took him to the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Norwalk. When he arrived at the clinic, he was seen by a volunteer doctor. The doctor and the staff at the clinic were unsure as to what was causing the rash, so decided it was best to schedule an appointment with a local dermatologist. Dr. Charles Halasz, a dermatologist in Norwalk who offers his services at no cost to patients referred by the clinic, was able to see him right away. Since the patient and his mother could not afford the taxi fare and the bus would take too long, the clinic staff provided the fare for the taxi to the dermatologist's office, and for the bus ride home. After seeing the young boy, Dr. Halasz called the clinic and asked if they could authorize a free prescription at a local pharmacy. The dermatologist gave him and his mother money for the taxi back to the clinic to pick up a prescription.

At the end of the day, the young boy was treated for his rash and would be able to return to school the next day. "We care for many patients with complicated diseases here; this was not one of them. Just a kid who would have missed a week or more of school and a parent who would have missed work and incurred (medical) bills she could not afford to pay if this clinic did not exist in this community," says Barbara McCabe, director of the AmeriCares Free Clinic of Norwalk. "I'm proud to be part of moments like these."



## News from Danbury

AmeriCares Free Clinic of Danbury is seeking funding to establish a new home. We have been fortunate to have rent-free space with the Danbury Housing Authority but have struck out, so far, on finding rent-free space for our future clinic.

Basic requirements include:

- Size: Approximately 2,500 – 3,000 square feet. There is a need for waiting room space that could be shared with other tenants or landlord.
- Availability: Occupancy by Spring 2008 – renovations to be completed prior to this.
- Security: Exterior lighting and security system or installation capability.
- Handicap accessible or installation capability.
- Zoning to allow medical office use.
- Accessible by public transportation and proximity to downtown Danbury.

Please contact Karen Gottlieb, Executive Director of AmeriCares Free Clinics at 203-658-9650 to discuss further. Funding is needed for renovations, general operating expenses and significant funding could represent a naming opportunity. We appreciate your help to renovate and support our new clinic.



# The Weisman Clinic

## An AmeriCares Free Clinic

Fred Weisman has shown his unwavering support for the AmeriCares Free Clinics program. Through his generosity and dedication to our mission, he has made this new facility a reality. Thank you Fred for all your efforts!



Board Member Fred Weisman speaks on the importance of health care



AmeriCares President & CEO Curt Welling (center) is joined by fellow Board Members John Kelly, Carol Bauer, Leila Macauley and Fred Weisman (from left to right) at the grand opening of The Weisman Clinic, an AmeriCares Free Clinic



Above: One of the five examination rooms in the new clinic. In the background is Bridgeport Clinic Director Camille Weis, APRN  
Right: Dr. Horatio Yeung, of Quest Diagnostics, weighing in



Friends and supporters gather to hear AmeriCares Free Clinics Executive Director Karen Gottlieb address the crowd before cutting the ribbon



AmeriCares Co-Founder Leila Macauley and Bridgeport Mayor John Fabrizi at the event

Photos by Jane Hetherington



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The mission of AmeriCares Free Clinics is to provide quality health care to uninsured residents in a setting where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. The intention of AmeriCares Free Clinics is to help those who are making a sincere effort to help themselves and their families, but who do not have the financial resources for medical care.

#### AMERICARES FREE CLINICS STAFF

**Executive Director:** Karen Gottlieb, RN, MBA  
**Associate Director, Clinical:** Cathy Sheehan, RN, MPH  
**Associate Director, Operations:** Martha Kennard, MPPM, MAR  
**Director, Volunteer Services/Outreach:** Deb Howard  
**Bridgeport Clinic Director:** Camille Weis, APRN  
**Danbury Clinic Director:** Dina Valenti, RN  
**Norwalk Clinic Director:** Barbara McCabe, APRN

## 2007 Donors

We would like to acknowledge the following foundations, corporations and community organizations whose significant support provides the financial groundwork needed to maintain our program.

The Macauley Foundation	Purdue Pharma
United Way of Western CT	Rite Aid Foundation
Praxair Foundation	United Church of Rowayton
RGK Foundation	Sempra Commodities
Near & Far Aid Association	National Emphysema Foundation
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First County Bank Foundation	First Church of Christ Congregational
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Our heartfelt gratitude for joining us as we face the difficult task of providing health care for Connecticut's uninsured.

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client's Charitable Remainder Trust as well.

Financial advisors play a vital role in educating clients on the importance of both outright and deferred planned gifts to nonprofits in their community. Planned giving offers many benefits that are substantive and not just for those of high net worth. But most important is the enduring nature of a planned gift as it helps ensure the charitable organization's future assistance to those in need.

If you are a financial advisor and are interested in hearing more about AmeriCares Free Clinics, please call Karen Gottlieb at 203-658-9650. For more information on planned giving, contact Barbara de Courrèges in the AmeriCares development office at 203-658-9595.