2026 FALL NEWSLETTER

Community Health Centers

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community

IMPACT UPDATE

New Fund Supports Access to Dental Care

A generous contribution from Dr. Nevin and Barbara Zablotsky is helping CHC ensure access to dental care.

After a career as a periodontist in Burlington, Dr. Zablotsky wanted to give back and contacted CHC to ask about creating a fund. “Barbara and I have been so fortunate, and we wanted to do something for people who can’t afford care or have trouble accessing it,” said Zablotsky.

In its first year, the fund will help pay to transport children from Burlington schools to CHC clinics for routine dental care, and it will help adult patients afford dentures.



Photo by Sam Simon

“Federal Medicaid funding used to cover transportation costs in our school program,” said CHC’s Dental Director Elicia Thompson, DDS, “but access to that funding was restricted earlier this year and we’re so grateful to the Zablotskys for ensuring the continuation of the program.”



Barbara & Nevin Zablotsky

The fund will also support adult patients with demonstrated financial need to afford dentures. “We have a good number of patients who are missing teeth and need dentures, but dentures are expensive. For many patients, insurance doesn’t cover enough to make them affordable,” said Thompson.

Anyone wishing to support the Dr. Nevin and Barbara Zablotsky Dental Fund can contribute online by visiting the CHC website at **chcb.org**. Select **‘donate’** from the main menu and click **‘make a donation’.**

This will take you to a donation form where you can specify the Zablotsky Dental Fund.

You can also send a check to CHC at 87 Main Street, Essex VT, 05452.

Grateful to Be Here

A Message from CHC's new CEO


Greg Wilmot, CEO

I am honored and grateful to join Community Health Centers and to become part of an organization with such a proud history of serving Vermont communities.

Having spent much of my career in Massachusetts and more than 20 years in health care leadership, I have seen firsthand the extraordinary difference community health centers make in the lives of patients, families, and communities. The heart of my work has always been a commitment to expanding access, improving health outcomes, and ensuring that everyone has the opportunity to receive high-quality, compassionate care.

As I begin this next chapter in Vermont, I do so with humility and appreciation. I recognize that I am joining an organization with a rich history, deep community relationships, and talented team members who bring CHC's mission to life every day.

I believe leadership is a team effort, and every person at CHC plays an important role in our success. I am grateful to the Board for its confidence in me and look forward to listening, learning, and working alongside our team, patients, partners, and community.

As we look ahead, my commitment is to honor what has made CHC special while working together to make it even stronger. I will bring my full energy and dedication to supporting our team, advancing our mission, and ensuring CHC remains a trusted and vital resource for the communities we are privileged to serve. I am excited to get started and even more excited about what we will accomplish together.

Thank you for all you do for our patients and each other.

With gratitude,
Greg Wilmot

Beacon Garden Creates Space for Connection

Residents at Beacon Apartments in South Burlington are enjoying the benefits of a growing community garden this summer.

Beacon, a former motel converted to supportive housing by Champlain Housing Trust in 2016, provides permanent housing for people who previously experienced homelessness.

CHC's Safe Harbor team offers onsite case management and support to help residents maintain housing stability and address challenges such as chronic health conditions, mental health concerns, and substance use disorders.

This year, the Safe Harbor team helped revive a community garden that had fallen out of use.

What began with a few plantings grew into a shared project, with residents helping water, weed, and care for the space.

The garden is now producing lettuce, herbs, apples, and other seasonal crops. Residents are harvesting fresh ingredients for their own cooking and spending time together while caring for the garden.

The project has also created new opportunities for connection and engagement. Residents say the garden makes Beacon feel more welcoming and gives people a shared space to enjoy and a reason to feel proud of where they live

Special thanks to Marelyn Saam and the Safe Harbor team for sharing photos and helping bring the garden back to life.


Photo by Marelyn Saam

CHC in the Community

CHC is one of many organizations promoting health and wellness in our community and each year, members of the CHC staff team up to support the fundraisers and community events organized by our partners.



In August, a CHC team joined in the Lake Champlain Festival organized by Dragonboat Vermont. The festival sees teams paddle to raise money for breast cancer survivors and Vermont cancer organizations. This year the CHC team proudly took the silver medal in the Community Division C competition.



Christina Yandow & Samantha Aguirre, DDS

Earlier in the summer members of CHC's dental team lent their expertise to offer oral health screenings and education during a Special Olympics event at St. Michael's College in Colchester.



Photo by Paul Detzer

In September, a large group of CHC staff members marched in Burlington's Pride Parade. Organized by a coalition of local groups, the parade has become a Burlington tradition and an annual event for CHC staff.



Photo by Paul Detzer

To make a donation or learn more, please contact Mike Glod at miglod@chcb.org.

The Community Health Centers Newsletter

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If you would like to learn more about or apply to join our Board of Directors, please visit www.chcb.org/about/our-board

Hearing From Our Patients

- This year we surveyed patients across all nine CHC locations. Here's some of what we heard.

> *"I appreciate that I have insurance, but I feel good about going to a doctor that cares for everyone regardless of their ability to pay."*

> *"Never have I ever felt more at ease at the doctor's office as an LGBTQ+ person."*

> *"The staff is caring, friendly, knowledgeable and non-judgmental. And if they aren't sure about something, they work to find the answer."*



of patients strongly agree or agree that they feel respected, safe, and heard at CHC.



of patients typically get an appointment as soon as they need one.

This is the difference your support makes. Thank you for helping CHC care for every patient who walks through our doors.

Wish List

DENTAL & MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Patient Scales ($2,000): Accurate scales are essential for tracking weight during exams — especially important for infants, children, and patients on weight-based medication dosing.

Dental Handpieces – Slow-Speed ($6,000+ for 10+ units): These are the drills our dental team relies on for routine work like polishing and adjusting fillings. We've also requested funding for high-speed handpieces below.

Dental Handpieces – High-Speed ($7,800 for 6 units): These handle most cutting through tooth structure — removing decay, shaping teeth for crowns. We've also requested funding for slow-speed handpieces above.

Wheelchairs ($1,000 for 5 units): Requested by our Riverside location for general medical use, to support patients who need mobility assistance during visits.

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Children's Books ($1,000): Support will purchase new, age-appropriate books to give to every child at their Well Child Visits (ages 0–6), promoting early reading for CHC families. We're also seeking donations of gently used children's books for our waiting rooms, for kids to read while waiting or take home.

Window Blinds for Offices ($1,050): New blinds for offices and exam rooms will improve patient privacy and comfort during appointments.

The Community Health Centers of Burlington (CHC) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit and Federally Qualified Health Center funded in part through a grant from the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services and generous community support. CHC is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C. 254b, and a deemed Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n). All CHC programs and services are accessible to people with disabilities. This newsletter is available in alternative formats upon request.

Notice of Privacy: The Community Health Centers protect the health information of our patients and gift information of our donors in all of our activities including our fundraising work. If you no longer wish to receive newsletters, fundraising appeals, or event invitations from us, please contact the CR&D Department at 87 Main Street, Essex Jct., VT 05452, marketing@chcb.org, or call (802) 540-3241.