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Press Release

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DERBY DENTAL CLINIC CELEBRATES FIFTH ANNIVERSARY, SERVICE TO OVER 14,000 PATIENTS

New Haven, CT — The Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center, a leading provider of community healthcare for over forty years, is pleased to recognize the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center Richard O. Belden Dental Clinic as it celebrates its fifth anniversary.

Since opening in 2008, the dental office has filled a critical need in the Valley by providing affordable, quality dental care to over 14,000 Valley residents. Additionally, it has had 33,000 encounters (visits) during those five years, and for the past three years has averaged almost 1,000 new patients per year.

“The need for this dental care site is great. Not only do we see patients from towns such as Ansonia, Derby, Shelton and Seymour but from cities and towns farther away such Waterbury, Middletown and Madison. People are seeking out our care,” said Dr. Felipe Ordoñez, the health center’s Director of Dental Services.

The site is named after former State Representative, Richard O. Belden, who played a key role in the founding and funding of the care site. Recognizing the need for affordable dental care in the Valley, TEAM, Inc., a community action agency for the lower Naugatuck Valley, reached out to Representative Belden, which led to the formation of the Valley Dental Advisory Committee. As TEAM moved forward with their plans, Representative Belden and the Committee were instrumental in helping TEAM secure the funding needed to build a dental clinic on the 2nd floor of their building at 30 Elizabeth Street, Derby. TEAM also received grant dollars to outfit the dental clinic and donations of office furniture.

“Oral healthcare options in the Valley for those with state insurance or with no insurance are limited. Given the critical role that oral health plays in overall health, we knew that we had to find a way to make it happen. Thankfully, we had unwavering support from Representative Belden and the other members of the Valley Dental Advisory Committee. Without them, this may not have happened,” said Richard Knoll, TEAM’s President and CEO.

TEAM partnered with the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center to staff and operate the dental office. Today it employs twelve persons and provides an array of services including exams & cleanings, oral health education & prevention, fillings, extractions, dentures, gum treatment, emergency services and pediatric dental care.

To learn more about the Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center Richard O. Belden Dental Clinic please visit www.hillhealthcenter.com or contact the dental office at 203-736-5460.

The Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center is the oldest and among the largest community health centers in Connecticut. The center provides integrated medical, dental, and behavioral health solutions throughout the greater New Haven area and the Naugatuck Valley with the goal of improving the health status of patients and the community at large. The Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center has been a leader in community healthcare innovation for over 40 years. Learn more at www.cornellscott.org.

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