



# Clinics Celebrate 20-Year Milestone

When AmeriCares founder Bob Macauley saw a news report on the uninsured in Connecticut, he decided Fairfield County needed a free clinic. Not long after, the first AmeriCares Free Clinic was born. The clinic opened in the South Norwalk Community Center on Nov. 4, 1994, with 15 volunteer physicians.

Twenty years and hundreds of volunteers later, Macauley’s program is still going strong with four locations serving more than 3,000 low-income patients. Over the years, more than 23,000 children and adults have received \$57 million in free health care services. The Norwalk clinic was renamed in Macauley’s honor in 2011 after his passing.



“It is so fitting that our first clinic is named for Bob,” said AmeriCares Free Clinics Executive Director Karen Gottlieb, who served as the first clinic director and the program’s only full-time employee in the early days. “It was his dream and determination that started this program two decades ago.”

Our clinics offer primary care services, including pre-employment physicals to help the unemployed get back into the workforce, and help patients obtain specialty care either on site or through local providers. More than two-thirds of all clinic visits help patients manage chronic diseases including diabetes, asthma and hypertension.



AmeriCares Free Clinics Executive Director Karen Gottlieb gives a young patient an eye exam at the Norwalk clinic in 1996

“You would think that much has changed over the years, but it really hasn’t,” Gottlieb said. “We are still helping Fairfield County residents without insurance, still relying on the compassion of volunteers and still counting on our partner hospitals and Quest Diagnostics for donated services.”



Clinic Director Barbara McCabe manning the phones in Danbury in 1998

Nurse Mary Jacobs, a volunteer since 1996, said her work with the clinic has always been about helping her neighbors obtain quality health care they could never afford.

“The program is still true and rooted in its original mission despite growing in patient volume, size and need. Norwalk space has expanded, new clinics have opened, and yet we still do the same job for each patient that walks through the clinic door,” she said. “After two decades that is priceless to those who require medical care and medicine.”

## Our Longest Serving Volunteers

Sally Bergwerk, MD  
Albert Burke, MD  
Judy Donahue, RN  
Jack Falsone, MD  
Susan Garofoli  
Mary Jacobs, RN  
Stella Korchinski, RN

Sarojini Kurra, MD  
Robert Lindberg, MD  
Pat Porio, RN  
Burt Rubin, MD  
Grace Vetter, RN  
Ann White  
Stephen Winter, MD



**From the Executive Director**

Dear Friends,

Well, it has been an incredible 20 years! Whether our volunteers subscribe to a “pay it forward,” “make a difference,” or “give it back” philosophy, they all have heart. Our founder Bob Macauley always said, “Love is the only thing that can save the world.” Nothing better exemplifies this sentiment than hundreds of volunteers, a staff with decades of experience, and a community of in-kind and financial donors all working together to ensure our patients have access to quality care.

Thinking back to November 4, 1994, the day the doors opened at the Norwalk clinic, brings back memories of uncertainty and confidence; fear and joy; humility and pride; but always determination that this program was the right thing to do in the right place. We had a mission that was clear, we had a need to fill, and we made it happen!

To every person who has touched our program, and to those who have given so much of themselves, please join me in bursting with pride for what we have accomplished. Thanks for a job well done.

With all my heart,

**Karen Gottlieb, RN, MBA**

**How We Helped the Uninsured Last Year**

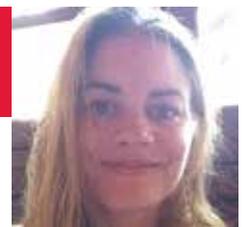


Location	Active Patients	Patient Visits	Value of Services
Bridgeport	608	2,229	\$1.4 million
Danbury	1,352	4,579	\$3.3 million
Norwalk	838	3,435	\$1.9 million
Stamford*	273	626	\$350,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,071</b>	<b>10,869</b>	<b>\$6.9 million</b>

*Data from fiscal year 2014. \*The Stamford mobile clinic opened in January 2014. Numbers represent the first 6 months of service.*

**Volunteer News**

*“I love the Bridgeport clinic. I feel I get more out of my volunteering than I give. It is a wonderful place and the patients are so appreciative. It is the highlight of my week.”*



Tara Smith, RN  
Bridgeport

**A warm welcome to our new volunteers**

**Bridgeport**

- Marie-Therese Afif
- Mary Kathryn Backus, RN
- Camila Chuba
- Janelle Jones, RN
- Malgorzata Lech, RN
- Andre Piedade
- Sheila Tipples
- Jennifer Villegas

**Danbury**

- Sandra Albert
- Zulma Colon, RN
- Terri Dvorkin, NP
- Patricia Fernandes
- Cynthia Gonzalez, RN

July Miliano

- Kosta Mirosev
- Ana Rebelo

**Norwalk**

- Beanca Bastien
- Victoria Buitron
- Jennifer Calderon-Baharian, RN
- David Gibson
- Alessandra Knight
- Claudia Scarpone
- Marelize Youssef, RN

**Stamford**

- Nikki Archibald
- Mauricio Borda-Gamez

- Jennifer Cooper, RN
- Bridget Dowd, RN
- Susan Herson, MD
- Reynaldo Ines, RN
- Olivia Jacobsen
- Minina Johnston, RN
- Hope King
- Ana Lilienfeld
- Lisa Luehman, RN
- Sarah Pullen, RN
- Judith Ramsey, RN
- Mimi Rosenberg, RN
- Sybil Taccone
- Ciara Waters
- Debora Young, RN

# Boehringer Ingelheim Makes Rx Donation

The Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation is providing a free supply of medication for hundreds of AmeriCares Free Clinics patients diagnosed with hypertension. The donation includes two categories of cardiac medications, ensuring providers have a choice of treatment options for their patients.

“Hypertension is our most common diagnosis,” said AmeriCares Free Clinics Executive Director Karen Gottlieb. “Two-thirds of the hypertensive patients we treat will likely benefit from one or both of these medications.”

The donation is helping patients like Carlos, who lives in a homeless shelter and suffers from hypertension and gout, which makes walking difficult. Receiving the free medication at the Norwalk clinic means Carlos no longer has to endure a long, painful walk to the pharmacy.

Boehringer Ingelheim is a longtime supporter providing \$2.5 million in funding to our program as well as valuable product donations over the last 12 years.

“Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation is committed to improving access to healthcare with a focus on underserved patients,” said Lilly Ackley, President, Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation. “This new program with our valued partner, AmeriCares, is our latest way to accomplish this goal.”



Volunteer nurse Liz Gafney gives medication donated by Boehringer Ingelheim to a patient in Danbury.

## Farewell to Clinic Director Cathy Sheehan



Longtime clinic staffer and Bridgeport clinic director, Cathy Sheehan, RN, MPH, (pictured on right) is leaving the free clinic family in November to pursue a higher calling. Cathy has been appointed the Provincial Leader of the United States Province of the Daughters of Wisdom, her religious order. Cathy’s skill, compassion and dedication will be missed by our staff, volunteers and patients. Godspeed Cathy!

## Our Supporters



Special thanks to the corporate and foundation donors who have supported us for a decade or more:

- Boehringer Ingelheim Cares Foundation, Inc.
- Bunting Family Foundation
- City of Danbury
- City of Norwalk
- Fairfield County Community Foundation
- First County Bank Foundation
- The Macauley Foundation
- The Maurice Goodman Foundation
- National Emphysema Foundation
- Near & Far Aid
- New Canaan Community Foundation
- New Canaan Sewing Group
- Purdue Pharma L.P.
- Rotary Club of New Canaan
- St. Francis Episcopal Church
- St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church
- Savings Bank of Danbury Foundation
- Adolph & Ruth Schnurmacher Foundation
- Union Savings Bank Foundation
- United Church of Rowayton
- United Way of Western CT
- U.S. Chemicals, LLC
- UTAS Employees Helping Hands Fund
- Webster Bank, N.A.
- Wells Fargo Foundation



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americaresfreeclinics.org

**Weisman AmeriCares Free Clinic**

115 Highland Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06604  
203.333.9175

**Boehringer Ingelheim AmeriCares Free Clinic**

76 West Street  
Danbury, CT 06810  
203.748.6188

**Bob Macauley AmeriCares Free Clinic**

98 South Main Street  
Norwalk, CT 06854  
203.899.2493

**AmeriCares Free Clinic of Stamford**

Mobile Clinic  
203.658.9507

## A Patient's Story: Elton

When Elton, 28, arrived at the Boehringer Ingelheim AmeriCares Free Clinic of Danbury last December he could barely see or hear, and his vision was deteriorating by the day. During his first consultation the staff determined Elton's hearing and vision loss most likely resulted from childhood meningitis.

Luckily, with access to treatment, Elton's vision could be improved. He was referred to Danbury Eye Physicians where he was diagnosed with keratoconus — a degenerative eye disease which causes vision distortion. The staff provided him with special contact lenses that greatly improved his eyesight.

The AmeriCares team also discovered Elton's hearing aids were not working properly, rendering the devices completely ineffective. Unfortunately, due to the great expense, Elton could not afford to replace them.

Clinic Director Dina Valenti sprang into action. Through her persistent efforts, Dr. Jocelyn Dore at Danbury Advanced Specialty Care provided Elton with a set of brand new hearing aids. For only the cost of ear molds, both of Elton's most important senses were restored.

After receiving the new hearing aids, Elton headed straight to the Danbury clinic to thank the staff for changing his life. "We were all crying," said clinic volunteer Jodi Gemmel, RN. "The joy on his face, I will remember forever."



Elton with Danbury Clinic Director Dina Valenti (left) and nurse practitioner Mary Beth Fessler (right).



Remember your neighbors in need this holiday season. For every \$1 donated, patients receive more than \$4 worth of free medical care. To donate, please use the enclosed envelope or go to [americaresfreeclinics.org](http://americaresfreeclinics.org)