

## Quest, Western Connecticut Health Network Honored

The AmeriCares Free Clinics celebrated its 20th anniversary at the BLT Financial Centre in Stamford on May 28. At the event, which raised more than \$100,000, two long-standing clinic supporters, Quest Diagnostics and Western Connecticut Health Network, were presented with Partnership Awards.

Over the years, Western Connecticut Health Network, which includes Danbury, New Milford, and Norwalk hospitals, has supported both the Boehringer Ingelheim AmeriCares Free Clinic and the Bob Macauley AmeriCares Free Clinic with more than \$16 million in donated services. Western Connecticut Health Network President and CEO Dr. John Murphy said the AmeriCares clinics have done something remarkable his hospitals have never been able to accomplish — reaching patients who otherwise would go without care.

*celebrating*  
**2015**  
*YEARS of care*



AmeriCares President and CEO Michael J. Nyenhuis with Western Connecticut Health Network President and CEO Dr. John Murphy and AFC Executive Director Karen Gottlieb.



Ron Coursey, Quest Diagnostics executive director of sales, presents a check for \$20,000 to Gottlieb during the May 28 event.

“Because of the extraordinary care they give, the clinics keep people out of our emergency departments and they keep people well,” Dr. Murphy said.

Quest Diagnostics was honored for providing a full range of laboratory services to patients in Norwalk, Bridgeport and Stamford. Over the years Quest Diagnostics has provided our patients with testing services valued at over \$5.5 million.

“We know 70 percent of medical diagnoses are based on testing, and we take that responsibility seriously,” said Ron Coursey, accepting the award on behalf of Quest Diagnostics. “We are committed to helping the uninsured access our services.”

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Dr. Stephen Winter

## Winter Named Medical Director

Longtime volunteer Dr. Stephen Winter has been named medical director of the Bob Macauley AmeriCares Free Clinic in Norwalk. In his new role, Dr. Winter, a pulmonologist and 20-year volunteer, will serve as an advocate in the local community, provide guidance on clinic policies and procedures and assist with volunteer recruitment.

Dr. Winter was impressed with the clinic from the beginning — pleasantly surprised to find it was nothing like the chaotic clinic for the uninsured he trained in while interning at a large New York

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## From the Executive Director

Dear Friends,

In keeping with our 20th anniversary theme, a few of our long-term staffers deserve special recognition and appreciation for their extraordinary service. Barbara McCabe, our Norwalk clinic director joined the program 20 years ago, first as a volunteer then as director of the Danbury clinic. As a nurse practitioner, Barb has fine-tuned the job of clinic director to be the ultimate case manager and patient advocate. Dina Valenti was hired in 1998 to direct the Danbury clinic bringing years of administrative and clinical experience along with an energy and love for our patients, volunteers, staff and partners. Our longest serving employee, Laura Galusha, laid the critical foundation for our system of data collection and retrieval which has been invaluable in supporting fundraising and program improvements.

We are incredibly fortunate that the competency, passion, and dedication to the job so evident among our veteran personnel are equally well demonstrated by the entire clinic staff — those at headquarters who provide all the behind-the-scenes support and all the clinic staff working with patients every day. We are blessed with a dream team without which the clinics would not function, the patients would not thrive and the volunteers would not keep coming back.

My profound and heartfelt thanks,



Karen Gottlieb, RN, MBA



Clinic directors Barbara McCabe, Dina Valenti, Muguette Maignan and Janet Yon

## Bridgeport Volunteer a Hometown Hero



Longtime Bridgeport clinic volunteer Dr. Ken Grossman was featured as a News 12 Hometown Hero on June 17. Dr. Grossman has been volunteering on Saturdays for 11 years, donating more than 250 hours to help patients in need.

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City hospital where patients waited all day for brief a visit with an inexperienced young physician.

“AmeriCares patients have scheduled appointments, experienced volunteer doctors spend the time that is needed to provide high-quality compassionate care, and the support staff is engaged, enthusiastic and caring,” Dr. Winter said. “The patient is the center of everything.”

The chief of pulmonary and critical care medicine at Norwalk Hospital and a clinical professor of medicine at Yale University, Dr. Winter has also been deeply involved with the free clinics’ parent organization, serving on the AmeriCares Board of Directors from 2003 to 2014 and participating in at least 20 relief missions.

## Volunteer News

*“I’ve seen how the care that the clinic provides to people who desperately need it can make an incredible difference in people’s health outcomes and lives. Just thinking about what AmeriCares does and what it stands for fills me with joy and purpose.”*



Caitlin Behrman, RN  
Norwalk

## A warm welcome to our new volunteers

### Bridgeport

Tiffany Haynes, LPN  
Rafique Haynes  
Jessica Helm  
Patti Law  
Jonathan Mejia  
Pam Rose, RN  
Janelle Scarlett, RN  
Cara Vino, RN  
Andrew Weeks  
Jenna Williams, RN

### Danbury

Don Daughters

Susan Echavarria

Erin Fessler

Sheila Gallo, LPN

Tricia Keller, RN

Madalena Mansinho

Juan Ortiz

Sarah Webber, RN

### Norwalk

Yendri Arias

Susan Giambalvo

Yanire Lami

Valerie McGuire, RN

Usha Nidadavolu

Carla Perez

Steve Sintra

Anja Stern, RN

Karina Thompson-Valisena

### Stamford

Chelsea Clemens, MA

Tara Goldberg

Akalia Green

Michelle Halley, RN

Elisa O’Brien, RN

Wilson Sango

Leslie Pearlstone Shain

Julie Varughese, MD



Longtime volunteers Dr. Peter Maher, Ann Bello, Susan Garofoli, Dr. Charles Halasz and Robin Rockafellow with Norwalk Clinic Director Barbara McCabe (center).



Stamford Hospital SVP David Smith, Stamford Health Director Anne Fountain, Stamford Hospital Public Affairs Director Pam Koprowski.

Both Western Connecticut Health Network and Quest Diagnostics have supported AmeriCares Free Clinics since 1994. Their combined donations have helped our clinics provide 23,000 low-income, uninsured patients with \$60 million in free health services.

“Without donated diagnostic and laboratory testing we would not have a free clinic program,” said AmeriCares Free Clinics Executive Director Karen Gottlieb.

## Introducing Janet Yon

Janet Yon has been named director of the Weisman AmeriCares Free Clinic of Bridgeport. Yon, a registered nurse, is in charge of the day-to-day operations of the clinic, which serves 600 low-income uninsured patients from the greater Bridgeport area. She was previously an administrative manager for Bridgeport Hospital and a nurse manager for a private practice in Westport.

“We are excited to welcome Janet to our program,” said AmeriCares Free Clinics Executive Director Karen Gottlieb. “She comes with terrific skills, strong connections to the community and a passion for helping the uninsured.”



## Annual Volunteer Reception a Success



Volunteers from all four clinics joined us at AmeriCares headquarters on March 26 for our annual volunteer appreciation event. Nearly 300 active volunteers keep our program going strong — physicians, nurses, interpreters, eligibility screeners and more. Guests were treated to cocktails, appetizers and acoustic guitar music. Pictured on the left are Danbury clinic volunteers Sonia Kieras, Elizabeth Gafney and Jodi Gemmell.



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203.658.9500  
americaresfreeclinics.org

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
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AmeriCares

**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: Rosa

The moles on Rosa's face, three under her left eye, had been there since she was a small child. They'd been there for so long that she barely paid attention to them. But last January, one started to darken and itch, and no over-the-counter cream provided relief. Instead of going away, the mole was growing and she became increasingly concerned.

Rosa, a mother of three who cleans houses for a living, turned to the Boehringer Ingelheim AmeriCares Free Clinic in Danbury for help. After examining her, the team at the clinic immediately referred her to Dr. Marcus McFerren of Advanced DermCare in Danbury for a biopsy. Soon, Rosa received the news.

"They told me it was a malignant melanoma," she said. "At that point, I was very scared for myself because it had only been a short time since my mother passed away from thyroid cancer and two months since my brother from colon cancer."

Dr. McFerren, however, was confident he could successfully perform surgery to remove the mole. But he knew that a large area of tissue would need to be extracted, and since it was in such a prominent position on her face, he felt that a plastic surgeon would be needed. Dina Valenti, Danbury clinic director, enlisted the help of a local plastic surgeon, Dr. Gregory Brucato, who agreed to perform the procedure for free.

"This was huge for me because it was a donation," said Rosa. "If it weren't for them, this wouldn't be possible."

Thanks to Valenti's diligence and Drs. Brucato and McFerren's skills, Rosa is cancer-free today and her scars are nearly invisible.

"Every time I go [to the clinic], I feel warmth in my heart," said Rosa. "I'm very thankful."

To see a video of Rosa telling her story, go to [americares.org/rosa](http://americares.org/rosa)

