



**SOUTHWEST**  
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

# Southwest Community Health Center Inc.



# 2024 Impact & Achievements

# About Southwest Who We Are

## Mission

Southwest Community Health Center Inc. (SWCHC) is dedicated to providing high-quality, accessible medical, dental and behavioral health services to individuals and families in the Greater Bridgeport area, especially the uninsured who reside in the medically underserved Southwest Bridgeport community.

## Vision

SWCHC is the provider of choice for residents of Southwest Bridgeport. It is recognized as a leader in the community health field, engaging in cooperative alliances with other agencies that are dedicated to the total well-being of community residents.

## Values

The staff and Board of Directors of SWCHC value and are committed to:

- The dignity and inherent worth of every human being
- The recognition of health as a complex phenomenon with many contributing factors
- The right to basic healthcare, regardless of ability to pay
- Friendly, professional and efficient healthcare delivery
- Excellence and quality
- Creativity and innovation

## Motto

**HEALTHCARE FOR ALL**

## Hello SWCHC Friends and Supporters,

Our journey has been one of growth and transformation. Over the years, SWCHC has not only expanded its services but also embraced new opportunities to provide comprehensive, compassionate care. While we celebrate the progress we've made, we recognize that there is still much work ahead. The challenges facing our community are complex, and the need for accessible, affordable care remains urgent.

As we reflect on 2024, I am filled with deep pride and gratitude for the remarkable strides we've made together in advancing the health and well-being of our community. SWCHC is rooted in the belief that everyone deserves access to high-quality care, regardless of background or ability to pay.

Thanks to your support, we've expanded access to care and critical health services, and we strive each day to meet the evolving needs of those who rely on us. Every step we've taken has been guided by our commitment to building a healthier community.

We are deeply grateful for the guidance of our Board of Directors and the dedication of our outstanding staff as we continue to advance our mission. With your ongoing support, we will continue pushing forward to meet the healthcare needs of our growing and diverse community.

Your generosity and support means the world to us, especially in these challenging times. As you read through this Impact and Achievements report, you'll see how we are creating healthier, brighter futures for those we serve — thanks to your continued support.

With Sincere Gratitude,



**Mollie L. Melbourne**  
President & Chief Executive Officer



**Dr. Stephen Guss, DDS**  
Fund Development Committee Chair



Visit one of our Southwest locations in the Greater Bridgeport area today!



**46 Albion St.**  
*Services include:*

- Internal Medicine
- Dental
- Pediatrics
- HIV/AIDS testing
- Nutrition
- Behavioral Health
- Lab
- OB/GYN
- Chiropractic



**762 Lindley St.**  
*Services include:*

- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- OB/GYN
- Behavioral Health
- Lab
- Chiropractic



**968 Fairfield Ave.**  
*Services include:*

- Internal Medicine
- OB/GYN
- Dental
- Pediatrics
- Behavioral Health
- HIV/AIDS Testing
- Lab
- Chiropractic



**509 Park Ave.**  
*Services include:*

- Internal Medicine
- Pediatrics
- Behavioral Health
- OB/GYN
- Lab
- Chiropractic



**Same Day Care**  
**1020 Fairfield Ave.**  
*Services include:*

- Minor Injuries & Illnesses
- STD Testing
- Chiropractic



**510 Clinton Ave.**  
*Services include:*

- Internal Medicine
- Podiatry



**Behavioral Health**  
**1046 Fairfield Ave.**  
*Services include:*

- Behavioral Health Treatment
- Substance Use Treatment
- Co-Occurring Treatment

**Hours of Operation**  
Monday - Friday  
8:30AM - 4:30PM  
(Evening & weekend hours available)  
**(203) 330-6000**  
**www.swchc.org**

@southwestchc

# Meet Our Leadership Team

## Board Officers

**Marshall J. Touponse Esq.**  
Chairperson

**Millie Seguinot**  
Vice Chair

**Denise Moye**  
Secretary

**Anne Marie Mangialaschi**  
Treasurer

## Board of Directors

**Jorge Cruz**

**Homi Dastoor**

**Rosa Fernandez**

**Stephen Guss, DDS**

**DeWitt Harmon**

**Mori Hernandez**

**Henry Lugo Jr.**

**Bruce McDonald, MD**

**Chas Sterback**

**Reverend Dr. Sultan Stack**

**Lawrence A. Vitulano, PhD**

**Karen Wong**

**Meg M. Zayan, RDH, MPH, EdD**

## Executive Leadership Team

**Samuel Diaz III**  
Chief Strategy Officer

**Dimitri Hrisovulos**  
Chief Financial Officer

**Thomas J. Krause**  
Chief Operations Officer

**Mollie L. Melbourne, MPH\***  
President/ Chief Executive Officer

**Alexandra Ocampo, MSHRM, SHRM-SCP**  
Chief People Officer

**Dara Richards, M.D, FAAP**  
Chief Medical Informatics Officer

**Carmen Rivera-Torres RN, MBA, MSN**  
Chief Nursing Officer

**Christina Trani, LMFT**  
Chief Behavioral Health Officer

**Richard Wintermute, MD, FAGOG**  
Chief Medical Officer



# Our Journey to Healthcare for All

1976 – 1980

## Founding & Early Development

- In **1976**, a group of concerned citizens from the City of Bridgeport, Bridgeport Housing Authority and local agencies formed the West End Neighborhood Advisory Council. Recognizing the urgent need for medical and dental services, they requested Section 330 funding from the United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare to provide healthcare to the city's underserved neighborhoods.
- The Health Center was established when the Advisory Council received a Notice of Grant Award in August **1977**. The City of Bridgeport was granted funding to support the Health Center for three years. After the funding period, the Advisory Council transitioned into the Board of Directors, taking on full fiduciary responsibility for the newly incorporated Health Center.
- In **1978**, our health services were relocated from Building #14 of the P.T. Barnum Apartments to the renovated St. Stephen's School on Bird Street.
- SWCHC was incorporated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization on Month, Day, **1980**.



1991 – 2001

## Expansion & Diversification of Services

- Since **1991**, SWCHC has received Ryan White Part C funding to provide comprehensive healthcare services for persons with or at risk for contracting HIV/AIDS.
- Behavioral Health Services moved to 510 Clinton Avenue in **1998**. It was the first building owned by SWCHC.
- In **1999**, SWCHC received accreditation from The Joint Commission for the first time.
- Behavioral Health Services relocated to its current headquarters at 1046 Fairfield Avenue in **2001**.

2003 – 2013

## Collaborative Growth & New Facilities

- In **2003**, SWCHC joined Bridgeport Community Health Center, Bridgeport Hospital and St. Vincent's Medical Center to form the Health Improvement Alliance.
- SWCHC opened a new main facility at 968 Fairfield Avenue in **2007**, offering medical, dental and behavioral health services.
- SWCHC was awarded a subcontract in **2009** to offer medical, dental and behavioral health services in five school-based Health Centers through the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH).
- In **2011**, SWCHC was awarded a subcontract to provide WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Food and Nutrition Services through DPH.
- In **2013**, SWCHC partnered with the Bridgeport Housing Authority to develop healthcare and supportive housing.



2015 – 2020

## Community Engagement & Educational Partnerships

- SWCHC participated in the inaugural St. Vincent’s Medical Center Medical Mission at Home Program in **2015**.
- SWCHC launched a dedicated clinical placement program for health professions, forming partnerships with more than 12 schools. In **2024**, 130 students completed part of their rotations with SWCHC.
- During the pandemic in **2020**, SWCHC led COVID-19 testing efforts in Bridgeport, conducting thousands of tests and administering vaccinations to support the community's health and safety.

2021 – 2024

## Enhanced Accessibility & Infrastructure Expansion

- SWCHC acquired a mobile medical unit called “La Guagua” to better serve community members across multiple neighborhoods in **2021**.
- In **2022**, SWCHC broke ground on a new location in partnership with the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club on Madison Avenue. SWCHC opened a new Health Center at 509 Park Avenue, co-located with the new Windward Apartments. SWCHC opened its Same Day Care location at 1020 Fairfield Avenue, providing the community with healthcare beyond scheduled appointments.
- SWCHC opened a new location at Hall Neighborhood House in **2023**.
- In **2024**, SWCHC opened a site at the Thomas Merton Family Center at 1406 State Street.

# 2024 At-a-Glance: Year in Review

In 2024, SWCHC served 29,075 unique patients. It was a transformative year for us, and we couldn't have done it without your support. Here's a snapshot of our key achievements.



## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Spring Into Summer" Fundraiser

We hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Spring into Summer networking fundraiser on May 16 at the Jacky Durrell Pavilion, with more than 80 attendees. The evening celebrated remarkable champions of our work, including U.S. Congressman Jim Himes.



## National HIV Testing Day

On June 28, we teamed up with the Greater Bridgeport Area Prevention Program and other organizations to offer free, confidential HIV testing.



## Puerto Rican Day Parade

On July 14, we had an incredible and unforgettable time celebrating the rich Puerto Rican heritage, honoring the culture, traditions, and remarkable accomplishments that have left a lasting impact on our community.



## Monthly Health Clinics

We collaborate with Hartford HealthCare to host monthly community clinics around the city of Bridgeport.



### Health Fair for Thomas Merton Family Center Guests

We hosted our inaugural health fair at the Thomas Merton Center during National Health Center Week to provide health screenings and resources for guests as part of the launch of Health Center Week.



### SWCHC's 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair

We partnered with the new Wakeman Boys & Girls Club on Madison Avenue to host the 17th Annual Health Fair to distribute backpacks and provide resources.



### Annual Company Celebration

We are family! SWCHC closed National Health Center Week with a staff celebration full of connection, healthy competition and appreciation for their dedication to serving the community.



### Mental Health Resource Fair

In August 2024, mental health agencies and the Region 1 Regional Advisory Council and Citizens Review Panel hosted the Mental Health Resource Fair at SWCHC.



### Construction at Wakeman Boys & Girls Club

SWCHC began construction of its new location at the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club at 595 Madison Avenue in Bridgeport.



### International Overdose Awareness Day

On September 5, SWCHC hosted International Overdose Awareness Day, a global event to help raise awareness of overdose and reduce the stigma of drug-related deaths.



### Day For Kids

Wakeman Boys & Girls Club teamed up with SWCHC and Bridgeport Caribe for the annual Day for Kids. Despite the rain, kids enjoyed obstacle courses, food trucks and crafts with plenty of smiles!



### Dancin' Through the Decades: Battle of the Decades (80s vs. 90s Edition)

On September 27, more than 150 attended SWCHC third annual event, supporting the mobile medical unit and essential healthcare for the homeless in Greater Bridgeport.



### **Norma Pfriem Breast Cancer Walk**

In October, SWCHC joined the Stroll for Strength at Seaside Park to support the Norma Pfriem Breast Center's 2024 Pink Pledge Campaign, ensuring compassionate care for all women, regardless of ability to pay.



### **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat**

SWCHC participated in Wakeman Boys & Girls Club's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat event at its Madison Avenue clubhouse. We gave out candy to more than 150 kids!



### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Human Rights Summit**

SWCHC hosted its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Human Rights Summit, The State of Womxn in Connecticut, on December 6, which featured keynote speaker Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz.



### **Annual Holiday Toy Drive**

In December, SWCHC hosted its Annual Toy Drive for the pediatric department, where Love Austyn generously donated more than 200 toys, bringing joy to children and families during the holiday season.

# 2024 Social Media Highlights

## Total Social Media Activity

In 2024, our social media grew significantly, helping us better understand how our community connects with our mission. Here are key metrics, platform performance and top posts that highlight the impact of our digital efforts.

				TOTAL
<b>followers:</b>	1,885	1,422	382	3,689
<b>impressions:</b>	30,000	35,100	2,119	67,219
<b>likes:</b>	1,700	1,500	20	3,220
<b>comments:</b>	32	33	0	65
<b>shares:</b>	120	221	3	334

## Looking ahead:

**Goal 1:** Create more educational content across all platforms.

**Goal 2:** Create more live video Q&As with our staff to highlight the services we provide.

**Goal 3:** Develop marketing campaigns to increase our presence and see more patients.

Follow us & stay connected: @SouthwestCHC



# 2024 Supporters

We are deeply grateful to all of our annual supporters for their generous financial contributions.

Your support is essential to helping us to continue our mission and create meaningful change in the lives of those we serve.

As we look back on 2024, we celebrate the difference your donations have made. With your partnership, we are able to expand our efforts and strengthen our impact on the community. Thank you for your commitment to our cause and for being a crucial part of our success.

Axiom

Alliance for Community Empowerment, Inc.

Bridgeport Caribe Youth Leaders

CallMed

City of Bridgeport  
(Health Department)

Health Network of Connecticut, Inc.

DailyMed

## **Stephen Guss, DDS**

Fairfield University (Marion Peckham Egan  
School of Nursing and Health Studies)

Gary & Janet Spinner

Gilead Sciences

Hall Neighborhood House

## **Hancock Pharmacy**

Hartford HealthCare  
St. Vincent's Medical Center

## **Henry Schein**

Imperial Dade

Lifebridge Community Services

M&T bank

## **MONECO Advisors**

Mission Mobile Medical

Optimus Health Care

Pritchard Industries

Read to Grow

RxTrail

Scared Heart University

Shipman & Goodwin LLP

Sunlight Electric

TimeDoc Health

United Healthcare

University of Bridgeport

Usentra Security

Vikings Construction, Inc.

## **Winslow Technology**

**Note: In 2024, Stephen Guss DDS, Hancock Pharmacy, Henry Schein, MONECO Advisors and Winslow Technology Group sponsored both the Spring into Summer and Dancin' Through the Decades fundraisers.**

# Help Us Make an Impact: Support Our Mission

Your support and generosity have helped us achieve remarkable milestones in 2024, and we can do even more in 2025 with your continued support. Partner with us to create even greater change as we continue to provide critical resources and services to those in need.

Your donation directly impacts the lives of those who need it the most.

## Here's how your gift can make a great difference:

- **\$25:** Linguistically, culturally and age-appropriate books at a wellness visit to support early literacy for children
- **\$50:** At-home blood pressure cuff for a patient without insurance so they can monitor their blood pressure between visits
- **\$100:** Teeth cleaning for a patient without insurance to maintain good oral health
- **\$200:** Annual physical for a patient without insurance to help get and stay healthy
- **\$350:** Eye exam and glasses for a patient in our McKinney Healthcare for the Homeless program
- **\$500:** Medication for chronic condition for a patient in our McKinney Healthcare for the Homeless program

**Your donation today means that someone can receive the care they need tomorrow!**

## 3 Ways to Donate

### Online:

Donate quickly and securely on our **website** by scanning the QR code or clicking the link below.



**DONATE HERE**  
[bit.ly/annual-appeal-24](https://bit.ly/annual-appeal-24)

### Mail:

Send a check to:  
Attn: Fund Development  
**Southwest Community Health  
Center Inc.**  
46 Albion Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

### Phone:

Call **203-332-3541** to speak with a team member who can assist with your donation.

Southwest Community Health Center Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Contributions may be tax deductible; check with your tax professional.

Thank You for Supporting  
**Southwest Community  
Health Center Inc.**



Follow us & stay connected:

**@SouthwestCHC**

