

# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**What is the Campaign for the John P. Musante Health Center?** The Campaign will create a community health center site at the Bangs Community Center in downtown Amherst. The John P. Musante Health Center's primary mission is to serve residents in the greater Amherst-

The Health Center is the result of a two-decade planning effort by Hampshire County health care advocates to link underserved residents to essential health care services.

Northampton region who currently have no or limited access to health care including medical, dental, and behavioral health services. It is open to all regardless of ability to pay.

**How much money will be raised during the Campaign?** Our fundraising goal is \$2,400,000. We have secured \$1,320,000 and look to our community to help raise the remaining \$930,000.

**How will the money raised by the Campaign be used?** Campaign funds will be used to renovate and equip space on the ground floor of the Bangs Community Center. The existing space will be reconfigured to contain two medical rooms, three dental operatories, an office for a Community Health Worker, a blood draw station for medical follow-up, a waiting room, three bathrooms, and necessary administrative and clinical space for the providers and support staff. A reserve fund is incorporated into the budget to assist with start-up operations and future maintenance needs.

**Do Amherst and Northampton really have a high level of need?** Yes. The level of poverty in our area is often invisible but is demonstrated by the number of children in our schools who

qualify for free and reduced lunch programs (44% in Amherst and 32% in Northampton). Distinct from but often related to income is the inability to access ongoing preventive health care. Cooley Dickinson Hospital reports that 24% of its emergency room visits are by individuals who require free care, pay out of pocket, or depend on MassHealth. One in every 100 adults in our area has a preventable hospitalization.

**Doesn't everyone have health care now that we have Massachusetts Health Care Reform and ObamaCare?** While more people have some health care insurance, many remain underinsured due to their immigration status or job loss. Others don't know about the enrollment options available, or are hindered by geographic or cultural barriers. In the case of dental insurance, few if any individuals have full coverage. Very few medical and dental offices in our area take public insurance and those who generously do provide services with limited or no reimbursement cannot meet the full community need.

**Why not create this health center independently? Why work with HCHC?** Amherst and Northampton do not qualify under federal regulations for a stand-alone Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), which is based on number of providers in the area, but we do qualify for an existing FQHC to develop a satellite. We chose to work with HCHC because of its extensive experience in providing and administering these services. HCHC brings over 65 years of experience as a community health center.

**Why locate the Health Center at the Bangs Community Center?** The Bangs Community Center in downtown Amherst is accessible and convenient for patients. It is a hub for the public bus system and home to an array of services.

This location is particularly fitting as it reflects

the original intention of Fannie Bangs, the donor who 90 years ago bequeathed the land upon which the Bangs Community Center now sits. It was her wish that the town create “a hospital . . . open to all people, without discrimination as to nationality or religious belief.”

**Why should I give to the Campaign?** Health care is essential to each of us. In order to have a truly healthy community, we all must have access to primary and preventive medical, dental, and behavioral health care. People cannot be active members of our community when they are struggling to live with chronic and acute health issues without support. As a community, our response to the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors reflects our compassion and supports the quality of life we value and enjoy in this region.

**Will the John P. Musante Health Center be self-supporting?** Yes. The Health Center is run by the Hilltown Community Health Center, which has been providing health care services in western Hampshire and Hampden Counties for over 65 years. HCHC has proven its sustainability which is possible through private and public health insurance reimbursements and federal grants. HCHC will bring this experience to its operation of the John P. Musante Health Center.

**Who will be served by the Health Center?** The John P. Musante Health Center will serve anyone regardless of ability to pay. We aim to reach those who are not accessing ongoing health care. The Health Center will serve 2,700 patients annually, providing a total of 10,200 medical and dental visits each year.

**Will the Health Center be a drop-in clinic?** No. The John P. Musante Health Center is intended to be a primary care provider for registered patients. As with traditional providers, it will

offer a medical home at which a patient can have a long-lasting relationship with providers and care which is coordinated.

**Will there be any local involvement in the John P. Musante Health Center’s operation?** Yes. HCHC will invite two to three representatives of the greater Amherst-Northampton community to serve on its Board of Directors. In addition, a regional Advisory Council will be constituted to provide HCHC with feedback on evolving community needs.

**When will the Health Center Open?** We expect to be ready to see patients in Spring 2018.

**Can I make my gift in more than one payment?** Yes. Many donors find that they can make a larger gift to the Campaign for the John P. Musante Health Center by pledging a total amount and spreading out payments for up to three years.

**How can I donate to the Campaign?** We appreciate checks made out to HCHC/John P. Musante Health Center. We also welcome donations using Visa, MasterCard, Discover or American Express. Gifts of appreciated stock can provide you with an added tax benefit while supporting the Campaign. Please contact us for more information.

**Is my gift tax deductible?** Yes. Gifts to the Hilltown Community Health Center, Inc. for the John P. Musante Health Center are deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. Our Federal Tax I.D. number is 04-2161484.

**Whom can I contact for more information?** Marie Burkart, Development Director for Hilltown Community Health Center, Inc. at 413-238-4111 or [mburkart@hchcweb.org](mailto:mburkart@hchcweb.org).