



NEWS RELEASE

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BASSETT HEALTHCARE VOLUNTEER SERVICES DEPARTMENT DONATES \$1,000 TO SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS' CHILD HEALTH FUND

Cooperstown, N.Y. - "April 15 to 21 is National Volunteer Week," said Barbara Ann Heegan, director of Volunteer Services at Bassett Healthcare. "'Inspire by Example' is this year's theme because it truly reflects the power volunteers have to inspire the people they help, as well as, to inspire others to serve. The week is about thanking one of America's most valuable assets – our volunteers – and calling the public's attention to all that they do to improve our communities."

The recent \$1,000 gift that the Bassett's Volunteers Services Department donated to the School-Based Health Center program's Child Health Fund illustrates the commitment of Bassett's volunteers who raised the funds through lobby sales. The Child Health Fund, supported by philanthropic contributions, provides payment for medications, diagnostic tests or health care equipment for school children who cannot afford such expenses.

In its 15th year, the School-Based Health Center program (SBHC) provides comprehensive and convenient health care services in school settings to students from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. In 2006, the program, which is managed by Bassett's Department of Pediatrics and led by Attending Pediatrician and Researcher Chris Kjolhede, M.D., and School-Based Health Manager Jane Hamilton, R.N., received the National Rural Health Association's award for Outstanding Rural Health Program.

A collaboration between school districts and Bassett, the program is now established in nine school districts: Cooperstown Central School, Delaware Academy, Edmeston Central School, Laurens Central School, Middleburgh Central School, Morris Central School, Sherburne-Earlville Central School, South Kortright Central School and Worcester Central School.

Enrollment in the SBHC program is strictly voluntary and involves only parental consent. For a child without a primary health care provider, the SBHC staff may become that child's primary source of health care. For those with a primary provider, the SBHC works in conjunction with the provider in caring for the child. If a child is in need of care while school is closed, the child could receive health care from a provider of their choice or at any area Bassett Healthcare site.

Services offered at each School-Based Health Center (SBHC) include: complete physical examinations, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illness, health education, referral services for specialty medical care, oral screening and dental referrals, first aid, immunizations, mental health screening, counseling and referrals, social work services, and basic laboratory testing.

For more information on how to contribute to the Child Health Fund, please contact the Friends of Bassett office: 607.547.3928 or friends.office@bassett.org.

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