



THANKS THE NEW CANAAN COMMUNITY FOUNDATION!!

- Since 2001, The New Canaan Community Foundation has provided funding for the AmeriCares Free Clinic – now named the Bob Macauley AmeriCares Free Clinic – located at 98 South Main Street in South Norwalk, Connecticut, most recently with a \$10,000 grant this past spring.

AmeriCares Free Clinics mission is to provide free quality health care to low income uninsured community residents in a setting where all individuals are treated with dignity and respect. It is our intention to help those who are making a sincere effort to help themselves and their families, but who do not have the financial resources for medical care.

- Our Norwalk Clinic relies on the local community for 100% of its financial support and The New Canaan Community Foundation is one of our most significant partners. Each year, NCCF staff and volunteers study our program closely and visit the clinic itself to witness the interaction between our volunteer doctors and nurses and the patients they care for.
- The New Canaan Community Foundation can take credit for helping the Norwalk Clinic to serve more than 1,000 local community residents each year by providing more than 3,200 patient visits and more than \$1.5 million worth of medical services annually.

The Real Impact – Norwalk Patient Stories

Luz remembers her first visit to the clinic. With a history of diabetes in her family, Luz was also diagnosed with the disease and recalls, “There was even an interpreter there to help me explain how I was feeling to the doctor. And when they gave me my medicine, they didn’t even charge me one cent! I was so grateful.” About six years ago, Luz’s calcium levels began to rise and the clinic arranged for her to have a parathyroid scan at Norwalk Hospital. She was diagnosed with a parathyroid adenoma. The only solution for Luz was to have her parathyroid gland removed. Luz underwent successful parathyroid surgery April at Yale-New Haven Hospital.

Roger ignored vision problems and a bulging chin for more than a year, hoping they would go away. He attributed his enlarged chin to weight gain; the eye problems he figured were a symptom of Lyme disease. Then, as he was driving on the highway one night, all he could see was a colorful blur from the lights ahead. He knew something was terribly wrong. One of the volunteer doctors diagnosed him with a softball-sized goiter and referred him to Norwalk Hospital for a MRI. “It was thyroid cancer and it had already spread throughout my body. A tumor at the base of my skull was pressing on a nerve, which caused my vision problems.” Roger had his thyroid removed. Radioiodine treatments and radiation followed.

Siu Lu began having shortness of breath and muscle pains last summer. At first, the 26-year-old thought an allergy problem was to blame, but then she began losing weight, shedding pounds rapidly, dropping 40 pounds in three months, and she feared the problem could be more serious. So she went to the AmeriCares Free Clinic in Norwalk – her only source of health care since she moved to Norwalk from Costa Rica nine years ago. Siu Lu was hopeful they could figure out what was wrong. After a battery of tests and a weeklong stay at Norwalk Hospital, she was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease. Now with treatment, including medication, she is back in good health again.