

# Positive Change

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## WOODLAND STREET RENOVATIONS NEAR COMPLETION

An extensive renovation project at Wheeler's Hartford flagship location at the 43-49 Woodland Street campus is almost finished, promising an even more welcoming environment for individuals and families. Thanks to a \$465,000 grant from the State of Connecticut Nonprofit Grant Program, several structural enhancements, including a new ground-floor front entrance, renovations to 49 Woodland Street, and upper and lower parking lot resurfacing will be completed in mid-March. On April 28, in honor of retired Wheeler President and Chief Executive Officer, Susan Walkama, LCSW, and her vision for delivering integrated care in this location, the 43 Woodland Street building will officially be renamed the *Susan Walkama Family Health & Wellness Center*.



[\[Read more about the renovations here\]](#)

[\[Read more about the 43 Woodland Street building renaming here\]](#)

## Wheeler Welcomes New Principal and Vice President of Education Services

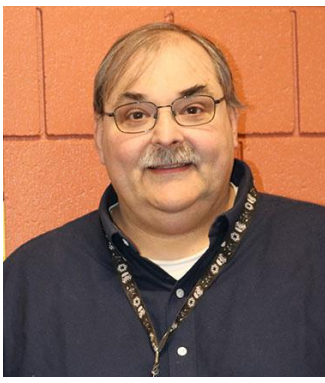


Wheeler has named Jon N. Oddo, MS, CAGS, principal of Northwest Village School and vice president, Education Services. In this role, Mr. Oddo provides supervision, evaluation, and leadership to the education and clinical team; directs building data teams and staff development; and expands Wheeler's Collaborative Learning Program statewide.

Before coming to Wheeler, Mr. Oddo served as the director of specialized instruction for Bridgeport Public Schools and was the principal of education and vocational services for Boys & Girls Village, Charles F. Hayden School in Milford. He also served as principal and special education director for Milestones (Connecticut Center for Child Development) in Milford.

[\[Read more about Wheeler Education Services here\]](#)

## Northwest Village School Social Studies Teacher Presents at Statewide Conference



Dan Marazita, a teacher at Wheeler's Northwest Village School, was selected by the Association of Private Special Education Facilities as a presenter for the 2020 Annual Professional State of Connecticut Forum on March 18. His presentation focuses on strategies to teach social studies to students with disabilities. Mr. Marazita has been a social studies teacher for the last 15 years and shares engaging lessons with students with social, emotional, and developmental needs.

[\[Read more about Northwest Village School here\]](#)

## HIGHLIGHTS AND OTHER HAPPENINGS

### Wheeler and Holcomb Farm Expand Agreement, Providing Farm-Fresh Produce for Patients

Patients at all of Wheeler's [community health centers](#) will have access to farm-fresh produce, thanks to a \$12,000 commitment from Wheeler through private donations and a \$12,000 matching gift from The Friends of Holcomb Farm through their Fresh Access program. This expansion builds on an existing agreement, which, for the past two years, provided approximately two tons of vegetables annually to Wheeler patients in Hartford.



[\[Read more here\]](#)

### Wheeler Sponsors Black Doctors Day



Inspiration comes in many forms, and Wheeler sponsored and participated in Black Doctors Day on February 8 at Dunkin' Donuts Park, an event that inspired and engaged young people from the Greater Hartford community to consider careers in health care. [Teo Anderson Diaz](#), LCSW, LADC, vice president of Health and Wellness Center Outpatient Services, served on a panel, which explored the importance of mentorship and the need to motivate youth to pursue STEMM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math & Medicine) educational tracks and health care-related careers. As part of the discussion, Mr. Anderson Diaz shared a personal experience of how a caring librarian and a persistent older brother encouraged his application to

college. Members of the Family Health & Wellness Center Health Outreach team also shared information and resources with attendees.

## CARE IN OUR COMMUNITIES



## Building Futures, One Job at a Time

Wheeler's [Alternative in the Community](#) (AIC) Job Development Specialists assist clients in overcoming the impact of their criminal record on gaining meaningful employment. The team has established a statewide presence through numerous job fairs and career expos and inter-agency initiatives to develop employment, education, and vocation opportunities for community justice clients. During 2019, Wheeler AIC programs assisted 119 individuals in obtaining employment, exceeding the statewide benchmark. Wheeler's AIC programs are funded by the State of Connecticut Judicial Branch, Court Support Services Division.

[\[Learn more about our Community Justice programs here\]](#)

## Saturday Hours Offered at 43 Woodland Street, Hartford

Wheeler's community health center at 43 Woodland Street in Hartford is open on Saturdays from 9 am to 1 pm, providing walk-in and scheduled care for a range of issues including:

- Cold and flu symptoms
- Aches and pains
- Minor cuts and bruises
- Behavioral health
- Addiction services and more

[\[Learn more here\]](#)



## SAVE THE DATE!

### Wheeler's 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic, Presented by Mutual of America Financial Group, June 8th

Get your clubs ready for Wheeler's [35<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Classic](#), presented by Mutual of America Financial Group, on Monday, June 8th at the Country Club of Farmington. Your [participation](#) and/or [sponsorship](#) will support [Wheeler's Basic Needs Fund](#), which serves the individuals and families in our care by addressing a range of environmental and social factors that interfere with a patient's health and well-being, but are not addressed by other means of funding. Special thanks to this year's early bird sponsors, including Presenting Sponsor, Mutual of America Financial Group; Platinum Dinner Sponsor, People's United Bank; Platinum Logo Sponsor, the Manafort Family Foundation; Golf Cart Sponsor, Loureiro; Lunch Sponsor, Gibbs; Champion's Circle, Barnes Group, Inc., and Laurie and Bill Torres; Beverage Cart Sponsor, GO; Hole-in-One Sponsor, Land Rover; and Grand Prize Sponsor, Sanditz Travel Management.







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