

NEWS RELEASE

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ECHN Tops Off 30-Bed Expansion to Woodlake at Tolland with a Column Signing

MANCHESTER, CONNECTICUT – On October 7, leaders from the community attended Eastern Connecticut Health Network's (ECHN) topping off celebration of the \$5.2 million, 30-bed expansion to Woodlake at Tolland Health Care Center. The construction, which began in June, has moved quickly, with the foundation poured, the structural steel erected and the roof completed. To celebrate these milestones, ECHN held a topping off ceremony, where attendees were invited to sign and write a message on a structural column to be part of Woodlake at Tolland's history.

The expansion of Woodlake at Tolland will give the community a vital improvement in quality healthcare services by providing quality medical care for up to 30 more people at all times, updating current and medical practices and equipment, providing additional forms of medical care and treatment options, reducing recovery times for more patients and increasing safety and professional care for patients who otherwise would have to recover at home.

This expansion of Woodlake at Tolland responds to the growing demand for chronic and convalescent nursing care in Connecticut and specifically Tolland County. From 2000-2005, no other county in Connecticut had a population increase above 1 percent in individuals age 65 and over. Tolland County's population of residents age 65 and over increased by 8 percent during this time period. With this increase in population of senior citizens comes the need for more beds in nursing homes and long term care facilities. Connecticut's Department of Public Health figures show a deficit of 182 licensed beds in Tolland County and according to the Connecticut General Assembly, Tolland County has the fewest licensed beds per population throughout Connecticut. While Hartford, Litchfield, Middlesex, Windham and New London counties all have at least 65 beds per 1,000 population ages 65 and over, Tolland County has just 44.5 licensed beds.

Woodlake at Tolland Health Care Center, a non-profit affiliate of ECHN, is a skilled nursing home and short-term rehabilitation facility located in Tolland. Woodlake at Tolland offers a variety of services, including long-term care, dementia/Alzheimer Care, short-term rehabilitation, respite care, hospice, inpatient and outpatient physical therapy, occupational therapy and speech therapy and an on-site adult day center. From September 2006 to September 2007, Woodlake at Tolland provided 26,645 long-term resident care days, 9,125 short-term rehabilitation patient days and 1,250 outpatient therapy visits.

Since the opening in 1993, Woodlake at Tolland has provided quality nursing and rehabilitative care to its residents and patients. This expansion project will greatly expand Woodlake’s ability to serve the community and improve the deficit of nursing home beds and elder care services offered in Tolland County.



William McGurk, President and CEO of Rockville Bank, takes his turn to sign the column. The Rockville Bank Foundation is supporting this project with a \$100,000 gift.



Rosemarie Papa, Chair, ECHN Board of Trustees



Peter Karl, ECHN President & CEO and David Engelson, Treasurer, ECHN ElderCare Services Board stop to smile for the camera.



Joe Byrka, Chair, ECHN ElderCare Services

ECHN is a not-for-profit health care system serving 19 towns in eastern Connecticut, through its network of affiliates that include Manchester Memorial Hospital, Rockville General Hospital, Woodlake at Tolland (a 100-bed nursing home and short-term rehabilitation facility), the ECHN Medical Building at Evergreen Walk in South Windsor, which houses the Women’s Center for Wellness, and ECHN Health Services Inc. (a series of medical practices owned and operated by ECHN). It is in partnership with Visiting Nurse & Health Services of Connecticut Inc., Connecticut Occupational Medicine Partners Inc., Ambulance Service of Manchester, Aetna Ambulance, Metro Wheelchair, and Saint Francis Care (which partners with ECHN on the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory of the Hoffman Heart Institute of Connecticut at Rockville General Hospital), Community CancerCare Inc. (which provides radiation therapy services at The John A. DeQuattro Community Cancer Center in Manchester). ECHN is also affiliated with Connecticut Children’s Medical Center.