

For Immediate Release
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ST. VINCENT'S LAUNCHES NEW INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY

BRIDGEPORT, CT, February 24, 2011 -- St. Vincent's Medical Center has launched a new program of injury prevention for seniors both in the home and community settings. The Medical Center's Trauma Service and Emergency Department collaborated on the new project, and have partnered first with the Trumbull Monroe Health District and the Fairfield Health Department.

Trauma Coordinator Mary Silvestri, RN, BSN, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator Ken Kellogg, Paramedic, are leading the program, and have taken it on the road recently by participating in flu clinics in Trumbull, Monroe and Fairfield. There they provided displays and written materials, but more importantly have talked with seniors and their families about risk factors for injury both in their homes and in the community setting, and fielded questions on fall prevention. They hope to expand to other communities over time, as well as participate in health fairs, educating seniors and caregivers about risks and strategies to avoid falling and sustaining other injuries.

"St. Vincent's Trauma Service and Emergency Department have treated multiple elderly patients with significant injuries as a result of a fall either at home or in the community," said Silvestri. "In keeping with St. Vincent's goals of fostering a culture of safety, Ken and I decided to partner with local health departments to provide fall prevention information to seniors in these communities."

"Judging by the response we received at our initial sites, there is a strong interest among seniors for assistance in identifying risk factors for falls and other accidents," said Kellogg. "This program fits in well with our mission to promote safety in every setting."

To book the program for a health fair or event, please contact Mary Silvestri at 203-576-6197 or email msilvestri@stvincents.org