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Press Release

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ONE-OF-A-KIND NEW HAVEN PROGRAM ADDS NEW DIRECTOR; CONTINUES MISSION
TO CREATE POSITIVE CHANGE FOR WOMEN IN AT-RISK SITUATIONS

New Haven, CT — The Cornell Scott-Hill Health Center is pleased to announce the addition of Jennifer James, ATR-BC, LPC as the new Program Director for the health center’s Village of POWER (VOP) program.

James, a Registered Art Therapist and Licensed Professional Counselor, brings over fifteen years of art therapy and mental health and addiction counseling experience to the position. Prior to joining the health center, James spent six years as a clinical program director in the New Haven area working with several non-profits, conducting crisis, respite and mobile counseling services as well as managing contracts with multiple state agencies including the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, the Department of Corrections, and the Department of Children and Families.

“I am wonderfully thrilled to be the new program director of the VOP! I have big shoes to fill yet feel honored to be chosen to lead such an empowering program for women. It’s the perfect fit for me—a clinical/creative program,” said James.

The Village of POWER is a unique program that provides services to women struggling with substance abuse, homelessness, mental health challenges or HIV/AIDS. The program combines mental health and substance abuse counseling with life stabilization groups and the skill-building, creative recovery program *Growing Through Sewing*.

Growing Through Sewing, a daily program funded by the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services, teaches the women to create a variety of items including women’s

apparel, hair accessories, jewelry, greeting cards, book marks, personalized embroidered items, T-shirts, tablecloths, bags and clergy garments. Through this program the women learn basic skills, re-engage in life and begin establishing the habits and practices necessary for greater success. Many of the items created by the women are also sold at fundraisers. The majority of the money raised from these events goes directly towards the women for necessities like transportation and housing expenses.

While clients may benefit financially, what they gain from the program is really invaluable. As James explains:

“These women come to us overwhelmed, broken and in need of support. They learn to re-build their lives with determination and guidance. Not only do they learn coping skills, rehabilitative skills and techniques but participate in “hands on” job skills and vocational training. They learn how to take better care of themselves with health and wellness counseling and interact with each other socially, learn how to work as a team and learn a job skill. They even learn how to market their products and what a better way to feel empowered then to have your creations sell!”

The VOP often puts their marketing skills to work by selling their creations at craft shows throughout New Haven County. While they will not be participating in any more shows this year, they have already started booking 2012 dates. A listing of 2012 craft fair dates will be available on our Web site in the New Year. You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) for the latest VOP news.

For more information on the Village of Power please visit <http://www.hillhealthcenter.com/services/behavioral/village.shtml>

The Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center is the oldest and among the largest community health centers in Connecticut. The center provides integrated medical and behavioral health solutions throughout the greater New Haven area and the Naugatuck Valley with the goal of improving the health status of patients and the community at large. The Cornell Scott – Hill Health Center has been a leader in community healthcare innovation for over 40 years. Learn more at www.hillhealthcenter.com.

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