

Funding

In 2003, Partners was funded by the Harvard-Pilgrim Healthcare Foundation for the first year of operations for the Healthy City Fall River initiative. This project is a collaborative effort with the Mayor's Office of the City of Fall River to improve the overall health and quality of life of those who live and work in the City using the Healthy Cities model adopted by the World Health Organization.

Since that time, Partners for a Healthier Community, Inc. has received funds for Innovative Community Activities from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health and Determination of Need (DON) linkage funds from

- Magnetic Resonance Imaging agencies:
- Shields Healthcare,
- Southeastern Massachusetts MRI,
- Saint Anne's Hospital, and
- Southcoast Hospitals Group.



Partners also works collaboratively with its members to develop grants that will bring in funds to support prevention and health initiatives in the Greater Fall River Area. The Children In Balance Project, the Healthy Lives Program, and the Mass In Motion Project are three examples of our achievements in bringing in more than \$750,000 to the community since 2007.



www.HealthyCityFallRiver.org

www.FallRiverFitnessChallenge.com

www.SouthcoastWorksiteHealth.com

www.MyFallRiver.org

Membership

The following organizations are represented on the Partners Steering Committee:

BMC HealthNet Plan
Bristol Elder Services
Catholic Social Services
Citizens for Citizens Family Planning
Fall River Family Service Association
Fall River Housing Authority
Fall River Police Department
Fall River WIC Program
Greater Fall River Medical Reserve Corps
Greater Fall River Re-Creation
Habit OPCO
HealthFirst Family Care Center
Parish Nursing - Saint Anne's Hospital
People, Inc. Early Intervention Program
Remax Realtors
Saint Anne's Hospital - Steward HealthCare
South Bay Mental Health
Southcoast Hospitals
Stanley Street Treatment & Resources
United Neighbors of Fall River

Other participating organizations:

Child and Family Service
Fall River School Department
Massachusetts Department of Public Health
Outreach to Religious Community
Pfizer Pharmaceuticals
The Wellness Company
Town of Somerset Recreation Department
United Interfaith Action
Walgreens

In addition, a number of individuals from across the four communities also participate.

Partners for a Healthier Community is the local Community Health Network Area (CHNA) organized by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to establish a working partnership between DPH and area residents to improve the health status of all those who live or work in the CHNA.

Partners for a Healthier Community
P.O. Box 1228
Fall River, MA 02722



**Working to improve the
quality of life in
Fall River, Somerset,
Swansea and Westport**

www.gfrpartners.com

Who are we?

We're working to improve your health and the quality of your life! Whether it's better access to health care, or to reduce the harm from the use of alcohol, tobacco or other drugs, or to reduce the chances that you will develop heart disease, diabetes or any of a number health risks, Partners for a Healthier Community is the group that works for you.

What do we do?

Our projects include the Healthy City Fall River initiative, efforts to improve both school and worksite wellness, and projects that support healthy dining, healthy neighborhood markets and community gardens. We're also the primary sponsor of the Fall River Fitness Challenge and the Greater Fall River Partners for Health and Well Being. You can read more about each of these project on our Projects page at www.GFRPartners.com.

When and where do we meet?

Our Steering Committee meets on the second Friday of every month, except July, from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the classroom of Stanley Street Treatment and Resources, 386 Stanley Street, Fall River, MA. This is an open meeting though only elected members may vote on business matters. Members are elected every other year from among those who attend any of our four Task Forces during the preceding year.

How do I get involved?

Anyone can join our efforts by attending any of our Task Force meetings. Just contact the chairperson to verify the time and location of the next meeting. These meetings focus on specific health concerns and help to develop strategies that can effectively address them.

We welcome your expertise and your vision whether you are a health professional or resident of our community with an interest in making the Greater Fall River Area a healthier place to live and work.



Our Vision

Building healthy communities is a shared responsibility. Partners for a Healthier Community has mounted a combined effort involving all sectors of our communities - - community residents, health professionals, government, business leaders, clergy, and schools - - to improve the health and quality of life for all residents of Fall River, Somerset, Swansea, and Westport. Our effort mirrors similar projects in communities across the nation and around the world - people coming together to work cooperatively to solve problems and improve the health and quality of life for the entire community. A healthy community is one that is continually creating and improving itself to ensure a healthy environment for all residents.

Partners has adopted the World Health Organization's description of a healthy community:

- high levels of community participation in all aspects of community life;
- health care services which focus on prevention and staying healthy;
- a non-violent and safe community environment;
- plenty of affordable housing;
- employment and educational opportunities for all;
- accessible recreation opportunities;
- safe and healthy workplaces;
- accessible transportation systems; healthy and safe environment.

Organization

Partners for a Healthier Community is Number 25 of the 27 CHNAs organized by the Department of Public Health (DPH) across the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The goal of Partners is to establish a working partnership between DPH and area residents to improve health status in the four communities of Fall River, Somerset, Swansea and Westport.

Since its inception, Partners has been a catalyst in bringing new healthcare and related resources to the Greater Fall River area. The Well Women Project and the Medi-Call Programs were awarded to Fall River with the support of Partners. In 1998, Partners was awarded a grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to establish a "Master Community Action Plan" (MCAP) for the community. Through the MCAP process, Partners has engaged the community in a strategic planning process to improve coordination of health services.

Partners for a Healthier Community has repeatedly and successfully mobilized community resources to address identified community health needs. It is our vision to expand resources and services to better meet the needs of all residents in the Greater Fall River area and ultimately build a healthier community. The most recent example of that effort is embodied in the Healthy City Fall River initiative, a nationally-recognized model of community health promotion.

Structure

Partners is a not-for-profit corporation in Massachusetts (Partnership for a Healthier Community, Inc.) governed by a 15-25 member Steering Committee elected biennially by the general membership at its annual meeting held in Fall of each year. Officers of the Steering Committee are elected biennially by members of the Steering Committee. Standing committees of Partners include a Nominating, Membership and By-Laws Committee. Ad hoc committees are appointed as needed.

The work of Partners is performed in task forces or Work Groups designated by the Steering Committee to focus on one area of concern identified through a periodic needs assessment process. Membership on the Work Groups is open to any person who has an interest in working on these task forces.