



### ***New Health Clinic Opens with Ribbon Cutting Ceremony***

STAMFORD, CT (December 1, 2011) – On December 13<sup>th</sup>, St. Luke's LifeWorks will celebrate the official opening of *The Clinic @ Woodland* with a ribbon cutting ceremony featuring remarks from State Senator Carlo Leone; Director of Health and Social Services for the City of Stamford, Anne Fountain, MPH; Cara Pavlock, Executive Aide to Rep. Jim Himes; Optimus CEO Ludwig Spinelli; and SLLW CEO Jason Shaplen.

St. Luke's LifeWorks has transformed space in the women's shelter on its Woodland Campus, located in the South End of Stamford, into a new health clinic complete with two examination rooms, waiting room, etc. The *Clinic @ Woodland* was built by SLLW's own maintenance team, saving tens of thousands of dollars. The clinic will be available to all St. Luke's LifeWorks' clients around Woodland Campus and to the local community. Optimus and St. Luke's LifeWorks will partner on joint intakes, joint management, and joint discharge plans, meaning that the medical, psychiatric, employment, and housing plans are integrated and reinforce one another. Optimus is looking to duplicate this innovative model at other sites.

"In short, two entities that would typically not talk to each other about clients are not only going to talk to each other, but will totally integrate their services, making the delivery of critical services seamless to the client," comments SLLW CEO, Jason Shaplen.

"The creation of this site will improve access to all, especially residents in nearby housing supported by St. Luke's LifeWorks. It truly is a way that non-profits with similar missions can work collaboratively on behalf of those we serve," says Optimus CEO, Ludwig Spinelli.

#### **About St. Luke's LifeWorks**

*St. Luke's LifeWorks is one of the largest providers of services to the homeless in the state of Connecticut and the largest in lower Fairfield County. It provides emergency shelter, transitional housing and permanent supportive housing to approximately 240 people each night. Additionally, it provides education & employment services, youth services and access to a vast array of other services such medical and dental care, in-patient substance abuse treatment, psychiatric care etc. through a network of formal, strategic partnerships. <http://stlukeslifeworks.org/>*

#### **About Optimus Health Care**

*Optimus Health Care, formerly Bridgeport Community Health Center, Inc., is the largest provider of primary health care services in Southwestern CT. With 12 service delivery sites located in the Cities of Bridgeport and Stamford, and the Town of Stratford, Optimus provides comprehensive health care services to everyone, regardless of race, income and insurance status.*

*Optimus Health Care is a private non-profit organization operating 12 JCAHO accredited community health centers, including health care centers for the homeless, a walk-in primary care center, dental clinics, and general family health practice.*