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## UCFS receives \$300K from Lord Foundation to cover renovation shortfall

NORWICH — United Community and Family Services in Norwich received a check Thursday for \$300,000 from the Edward & Mary Lord Foundation to cover an unexpected funding shortfall for the current renovation project at the health center's Town Street facility.

The shortfall was a result of expenses related to asbestos abatement, plumbing and electrical problems and excess propane costs spurred by the long, cold winter, among other issues, according to Vice President of Marketing and Facilities Pam Kinder.

Kinder described the 48,000-square-foot renovation project as a no-frills version of what the organization had originally anticipated.

"We had to value-engineer a lot," Kinder said.

The expansion includes the addition of 12 new treatment rooms, a new dental operator, 18 new behavioral health offices and decentralized waiting rooms, Kinder said. Upon completion of the project, capacity at UCFS will increase by 48 percent.

Kinder said the donation brings the foundation's contribution to the Edward and Mary Lord Family Health Center at UCFS to \$800,000.

Kathryn Lord, who presented the check to UCFS with fellow foundation trustee Joel Suisman, said her aunt and uncle's foundation was made possible by an uncluttered life combined with innate generosity.

"Uncle Ed happily owned just two pair of pants," she said — one for the winter and one for the summer — and it was that kind of frugality that enabled the foundation's latest grant to the 137-year-old health services agency. "I am sure that Ed and Mary would be pleased and proud that their hard work, simple life and foresight is able to benefit so many people in Norwich, the town they loved so much."

The Lords were 98 years old when they died in 2009 within five months of each other, leaving an estate worth nearly \$16 million with directions to use the money for the benefit of the community.

UCFS President and CEO Chuch Seeman said it is money from organizations like the Lord Foundation that make the \$4 million renovation possible. Because it's almost impossible for the nonprofit organization to generate the necessary capital based on services provided, he said, the agency depends on money from government and foundations "to make this fantasy a reality."

Shiela Hayes, member of the UCFS board of directors, was thrilled when the Lord Foundation stepped up to cover the shortfall. It is a tough economy, she said, in which to raise the needed money.



PHOTO/ ELIZABETH REGAN/ NORWICHBULLETIN.COM

From left, United Community and Family Services President and CEO Chuck Seeman, Vice President of Marketing and Facilities Pam Kinder and Lord Foundation trustee Kathryn Lord celebrate the foundation's latest donation of \$300,000 to the Edward and Mary Lord Family Health Center's ongoing expansion.

### What's next

With the renovation in its final phase, a ribbon-cutting for the Edward and Mary Lord Family Health Center on Town Street in Norwich is expected in the late summer or early fall. Vice President of Marketing and Facilities Pam Kinder said the expanded facility will increase capacity by 48 percent.

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