

Officials break ground on new Boys & Girls Club

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the club's aging quarters on Laurel Street, which is already for sale.

Under a bright, sunny sky, Gov. Dannel Malloy hailed the grass-roots effort to raise the necessary cash – the club so far has pledges for \$10 million of the \$12 million it needs – and congratulated the community for putting the needs of children front and center.

Suchopar said the new facility will put the club, founded in 1908, on a path to deliver another century of service to young people and families.

He said the club tells children

they should be “reaching for what seems impossible and creating that dream that, I think, is your destiny.”

Bob Fiondella said he stepped up to help because he feels so much gratitude for what the club gave him growing up in Bristol, “getting me out of my shell.”

He said the club itself was reaching a long-held dream by breaking ground on what he said will be a beautiful building.

“Five years ago, it was a dream,” Mayor Art Ward said. “Today is

the beginning of the reality of that dream.”

State Rep. Betty Boukus, a Plainville Democrat who pushed Malloy to provide \$2 million in state funding, said the club is “a community treasure.”

“Today, we break ground on a future,” Boukus said.

Bob Fiondella, chairman of the club's capital campaign,

said that 10 donors put up as much as \$8 million toward the project and urged less well-heeled givers to “grab a small bit of the oar” and chip in what they can.

Fiondella said he stepped up



Mike Orazzi | Staff

Michael Suchopar, executive director for the Bristol Boys & Girls Club, during the groundbreaking ceremony.



Mike Orazzi | Staff

Michael Suchopar, executive director for the Bristol Boys & Girls Club, during the ground breaking ceremony for their new facility on West Street in Bristol on Tuesday morning.

to help because he feels so much gratitude for what the club gave him growing up in Bristol, “getting me out of my shell” and putting him on a path that led him to the top job at the Phoenix Life Insurance Co.

Among the club's big donors were ESPN, the state, Webster Bank, the Tinty Foundation, Yarde Metals and the Barnes and Roberts families.

Suchopar said he made “a crazy request” to ESPN to kick off the project, asking for \$500,000 to get it moving. The Bristol-based company called him, he said, and apologized because it could only chip in

\$400,000. It later gave another \$1 million.

Fiondella and Suchopar said that ESPN's contribution was critical because it provided both credibility for the project and boosted the club's confidence that it could ultimately raise the required funds.

“We're not done,” said Kevin Martinez, who's in charge of ESPN's corporate giving. He said the company will continue to be a part of the club's work into the future.

Fiondella said the way everything came together was miraculous.

“I think the Lord is looking out for us,” he said.

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Tenet \$4.3 billion acquisition of Vanguard finalized

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The acquisition of Vanguard by the Dallas-based Tenet, finalized Tuesday, was announced several months ago and did not come as a surprise to either Bristol Hospital or Vanguard.

In a statement sent to Bristol Hospital employees Tuesday, Bristol Hospital President Kurt Barwis said Tenet is retaining Vanguard's current market-based operational structures including its Connecticut strategy to ensure that the operation of facilities continues without disruption.

“This includes leaders from Tenet working with Gov. Dannel

P. Malloy to come to a solution on the issue regarding for-profit status and their ownership of medical practices,” said Barwis in the statement.

Barwis and Marie O'Brien, chairwoman of the hospital's board, recently met with Malloy to discuss the hospital's possible for-profit status.

“Although he is very supportive, there are many details to work out regarding for-profit hospital systems in Connecticut,” Barwis said in the

statement. “While these conversations take place, our next steps

Bristol Hospital President Kurt Barwis said Tenet is retaining Vanguard's current market-based operational structures including its Connecticut strategy to ensure that the operation of facilities continues without disruption.

include finalizing an Asset Purchase Agreement and filing a Certificate of Need, which we expect to take

place later this fall.”

Tenet has a nationwide footprint with more than 250 hospital and outpatient centers providing a full range of medical services, from inpatient and outpatient therapies, to wellness and primary care, to chronic care management, advanced diagnostics and rehabilitation.

Tenet bought Vanguard for \$4.3 billion, or \$21 per share of Vanguard Stock, including the assumption of \$2.5 billion of net Vanguard

debt. As a result of the sale closing, Vanguard Health Systems has ceased trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

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