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Connecticut Hospital Association To Honor Exemplary Individuals, Programs

June 20, 2007, Wallingford - At its 89th Annual Meeting on June 21st, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize the exemplary efforts made by institutions and individuals to improve and advance the delivery of healthcare, during its annual awards presentation.

The *T. Stewart Hamilton, MD Distinguished Service Award* will be presented to **Richard E. Pugh**, of Woodbury, former longtime President and CEO of New Milford Hospital. CHA will recognize Mr. Pugh's vision, commitment, and contribution of significant, noteworthy services to the health of the public. During his tenure, Mr. Pugh led New Milford Hospital through unprecedented growth and change, as the institution evolved from a small community hospital to a modern, progressive facility that has consistently attained the highest levels of patient and employee satisfaction and become a leader in a number of clinical specialties. Mr. Pugh forged an affiliation with New York's renowned Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. This relationship catalyzed New Milford Hospital's activity and achievement in the areas of clinical trials, expanded diagnostics, and state-of-the-art surgery.

"Dick has an extraordinary gift for consensus-building, motivating people, and bringing out the best in organizations," said CHA President and CEO Jennifer Jackson. "His steadfast dedication to providing the highest quality patient services was rivaled only by his commitment to family, co-workers, and the larger community." During recent years, Pugh served as Chairman of the CHA Board of Trustees, as well as Chairman of its Committee on Government.

"Healthcare colleagues and community leaders throughout Connecticut hold Dick Pugh in the highest esteem. He has been an inspiration to many – both on a professional and personal level, and CHA is proud and honored to recognize him as this year's recipient of the T. Stewart Hamilton, MD Distinguished Service Award," said Jackson.

St. Vincent's Medical Center will receive the *John D. Thompson Award for Excellence in the Delivery of Healthcare Through the Use of Data* for its efforts to reduce mortality rates through leadership accountability. The hospital achieved significant improvement in several key areas, including a 57% reduction in ventilator-associated infections; a 30% reduction in unanticipated cardiac arrests; 100% improvement in normoglycemia in ICU patients; and a 54% reduction in central line infections. St. Vincent's Medical Center achieved this by redesigning its leadership structure to improve accountability for outcomes.

Bridgeport Hospital will receive the *Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award*, presented in collaboration with the Department of Public Health, for its Child FIRST program, which targets high-risk children and their families, to decrease the incidence of development and learning problems, emotional disturbance, abuse, and neglect.

Each year, more than 700 children are screened; approximately 100 receive a consultation; and between 200 and 250 families receive intensive, home-based services free of charge. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one of the supporters of Child FIRST, considers this a program of national significance.

The CHA Annual Meeting will be held at the Aqua Turf Club in Southington, from 4pm-7pm on Thursday, June 21, 2007.

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