



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Connecticut Hospital Association Recognizes
Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's Marcus McKinney
As a 2011 Healthcare Hero**

June 24, 2011, Wallingford - At its 93rd Annual Meeting on June 23, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) recognized **Marcus McKinney, DMin, LPC, Director, Pastoral Counseling and Community Outreach, and Director, Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center**, as a 2011 Healthcare Hero. He was nominated for this award by his colleague Tina Varona.

A chance meeting Marcus McKinney had with Jeffrey Steinberg, MD, at Saint Francis, and Curtis D. Robinson, a board member at Saint Francis, led to the idea of addressing men's health, specifically prostate cancer in African-American men. In his role as Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital, where he has served for 28 years, Dr. McKinney has been instrumental in building the community relationships that have supported the work of the Curtis D. Robinson Men's Health Institute, which provides free services to the uninsured and the underinsured, and is working to address the racial disparities that affect the African-American community by hosting educational programs with partnering churches and community. This outreach project is not just about prostate cancer; it is changing the way medicine is brought into the community. The program is making a difference and even saving lives.

CHA's "Healthcare Heroes" Contest was developed in 2002 to celebrate the invaluable contributions of healthcare workers, both to their field and to the community at large. Now in its tenth year, the presentation of the "Healthcare Heroes" awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.

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The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.