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CHA to Recognize MidState Medical Center's Howard Boey, MD, as a Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 101st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Howard Boey, MD, MidState Medical Center, as a 2019 Healthcare Hero. He was nominated by Amanda Blaszyk for this award.

Dr. Boey has been heeding the call to heal impoverished populations for more than a decade by bringing specialized surgeries to patients in Ecuador. His inherent humanitarian spirit moves him, literally 6,000 miles round trip a year, to care for children and adults who need head and neck surgery, but who barely have access to basic medical services. In the last 15 years, he has performed more than 400 procedures.

A board-certified otolaryngologist, Dr. Boey specializes in robotic surgery and head and neck cancers at MidState Medical Center. In Riobamba, Ecuador, which is hours by car from the country's capital, Dr. Boey primarily performs surgeries on children with deformities such as cleft lip or palate. He travels with a contingency of colleagues from across the country that he's assembled over the years, including general surgeons, anesthesiologists, and women's health specialists.

Through generous donations and a strong relationship with Partners for Andean Community Health, a clinic was built to accommodate the needs of the indigenous people. Dr. Boey performs his surgeries and follows up with his patients in this not-for-profit clinic, which houses a primary care service and two surgical suites. Patients with deformities often need multiple surgeries and Howard typically follows his patients for years.

Dr. Boey brings his strict medical standards to Ecuador by maintaining a focus on quality in the clinic. Best practices related to infection rates, sterilizing equipment, laparoscopic surgeries, and endoscopic procedures are utilized.

Local newspapers, radio stations, and television programs announce Howard and his team's arrival in advance. Rural doctors often refer patients who need expert care to the clinic. In the one week each year that he practices in Riobamba, Dr. Boey performs 25 to 30 procedures.

Dr. Boey is a kind and thoughtful physician who carries the sentiment of his Ecuadorian patients when he's practicing medicine in Connecticut. The history of his travels translates into compassionate care in every exam room.

CHA's Healthcare Heroes award 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 17th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.



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About CHA

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals and health systems since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals and health systems on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.