

NEWS RELEASE



For immediate release
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Bridgeport Hospital Honors Volunteers at Annual Luncheon

BRIDGEPORT, CT (May 23, 2013) – More than two dozen volunteers were recognized for achieving service milestones ranging from 500 to more than 13,000 hours during Bridgeport Hospital’s annual Volunteer Luncheon, May 20 at Testo’s Ristorante.

“You are an invaluable resource,” hospital President and CEO Bill Jennings told the nearly 100 volunteers who attended the luncheon. “Your gift is the gift of time. You add the personal touch to the excellent healthcare we’ve become known for.”

The Heart Beats cardiac patient support group received a special award for its 32 years of financial support and counseling of fellow heart patients.

“You have touched thousands of patients and families with your support,” said Chief Operating Officer Norm Roth, in thanking the Heart Beats members for their education, emotional support and encouragement of cardiac patients.

Chief of Cardiology and Interim Chairman of Medicine Stuart Zarich, MD, noted that Heart Beats has raised more than \$250,000 to support cardiac care at the hospital, including funds to provide Sir Koff-a-Lot stuffed bears, which help patients during their recovery from heart surgery.

A plaque honoring Heart Beats will be hung outside the Consultation Room in the Heart Institute on the 10th floor of the hospital. The inscription on the plaque reads: “Cardiac Consultation Room: In honor of the members of Heart Beats, Inc. to recognize their many years of dedicated support for our cardiac patients.”

Volunteers recognized for the most lifetime service hours included Joe Mezick of Stratford with 13,500, Anne Lussen of Stratford with 12,500 and Gina Ryan of Trumbull with 12,000.

During the past year, Bridgeport Hospital’s 400-plus volunteers and auxiliary members have donated nearly 67,000 total service hours.

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