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Connecticut Hospital Association to Recognize Hartford Hospital's Carolyn Kelly as a 2013 Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 95th Annual Meeting on June 25, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Carolyn Kelly, Physical Therapist, Hartford Hospital, as a 2013 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award Kelley Boothby and Eileen Pelletier.

During her 41 years as a physical therapist at Hartford Hospital, Carolyn Kelly has successfully addressed patient needs through diligence and collaboration with others. Among her many successes, she developed a cost-effective and successful volunteer program to meet patient mobility needs.

Carolyn recognized a trend toward reduced mobility of hospitalized patients occurring at Hartford Hospital and nationally. In 2011, she initiated collaboration with Nursing and Volunteer Services to develop a program that utilizes volunteers to assist patients with walking to decrease complications related to bed rest. She determined the appropriate patient population, developed and implemented education for nursing and rehabilitation staff to facilitate proper referrals, and developed the volunteer role and training to address the nursing unit environment, as well as the specific needs of the mobility program.

In addition to her role as a rehabilitation supervisor, Carolyn assumed a major responsibility for volunteers through interviewing, training, scheduling, and supporting participants in the program. The mobility volunteer role has been a means for volunteers, particularly those pursuing healthcare fields, to gain experience working with patients, communicating with medical staff, and becoming comfortable with the hospital environment. Patient safety has been the top priority in this program, with excellent results.

Nurses and patient care attendants mention patient mobility status more often in shift report and in documentation. Volunteers report that this experience reinforces their desire to pursue a career in the healthcare field. Many have noted that they feel they make a difference in patients' lives. All the patients involved in the mobility program report that they enjoy walking with the volunteer.

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 12th 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 since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.