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Connecticut Hospital Association to Recognize John Dempsey Hospital's Wendy Martinson, RN, MSN, as a 2013 Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 95th Annual Meeting on June 25, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Wendy Martinson, RN, MSN, Quality Assurance Specialist, John Dempsey Hospital, as a 2013 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award by Jason Ryan, MD.

Wendy Martinson has improved the lives of hundreds of heart failure patients. Two years ago, Wendy spearheaded the [UConn Health Center's](#) initiative to help heart failure patients transition from hospital to home. She recognized that this required a group effort from the hospital and multiple community providers, so she created the Dream Team – a group that meets once a month to discuss heart failure patients. She brought together community doctors, visiting nurses, staff from skilled nursing facilities, and even an adult day care center and insurance company.

Word spread that the program was having a real impact on patients' lives. The team grew, steadily increasing in size and outgrowing one conference room after another. Today, 40-50 people are part of the Dream Team, and the program has received national recognition.

At the broader hospital level, there has been a dramatic improvement in the care provided to heart failure patients. None of this would have happened without Wendy's dedication and hard work. She is a true healthcare hero.

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.