



For Immediate Release

June 11, 2015

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CHA to Recognize Saint Mary's Hospital's Paul Kelly, MD, as a Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 97th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Paul Kelly, MD, Chief of Cardiology at Saint Mary's Hospital, as a 2015 Healthcare Hero. He was nominated for this award by Jennifer Clement.

When Saint Mary's Hospital was selected to participate in the American College of Cardiology's Patient Navigator Program – which helps cardiac patients overcome challenges in the weeks following their hospital discharge and helps them avoid hospital readmission – Dr. Kelly developed "The Pump Club" to meet these challenges.

Pump Club members come to the hospital for post-discharge education, help managing their medications, IV therapy, and other treatment. It's also a place where they can get a cup of coffee and a sandwich and talk with providers. The name itself is intended to create a sense of hope and belonging for heart failure patients.

During each visit, Dr. Kelly and the staff go beyond the clinical needs of patients to address their socioeconomic needs and eliminate barriers to care. Can they get to appointments? What are their living conditions like? Do they have heat? Do they have access to food? Are they struggling with substance abuse? For these patients, a diagnosis of heart failure can be overwhelming.

Without the Pump Club, many patients would struggle to manage their heart failure and inevitably seek care in the Emergency Department. By founding the Pump Club, Dr. Kelly and his team established a framework to keep them as healthy and stable as possible.

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 14th 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, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.