



For Immediate Release

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**CHA to Recognize Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center's
Rebecca Santiago, BSN, RN, N&PN, FCN, as a Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 97th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Rebecca Santiago, BSN, RN, N&PN, FCN, Community Healthcare Navigator and OASIS Facilitator at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, as a 2015 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award by Alix Boyle.

Sunday mornings will find Ms. Santiago at a church, mosque, barber shop, or beauty salon, reaching out to people who need medical care but don't know how to access it, or teaching them how to stay healthy. She performs prostate cancer screenings for low-income or uninsured people. If the tests find problems, she helps them find a doctor, obtain medical insurance, and identify help with co-pays – all the while caring for her patients in mind, body, and spirit.

Ms. Santiago also is the Hartford chapter president of the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, a board member of the Greater Hartford YWCA, a Senior Fellow at the Connecticut Health Foundation, and a member of the Diversity Committee for the Connecticut Nurses Association – Action Coalition.

Ms. Santiago speaks both Spanish and English, and teaches a diabetes education class to Spanish-speaking people at the House of Restoration Church in Hartford. In addition, she is among a handful of professionals in the state educating people about accessing health insurance. She completed a parish nursing program to become certified as a faith community nurse and is currently studying to become a certified diabetes educator.

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.