



**For Immediate Release**  
June 13, 2019

Contact: Fiona Phelan  
Manager, Communications and Public Relations  
(203) 294-7206  
[Phelan@chime.org](mailto:Phelan@chime.org)

## **CHA to Recognize Middlesex Health Staff as Healthcare Heroes**

WALLINGFORD – At its 101st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize the staff at Middlesex Health as 2019 Healthcare Heroes.

February 22, 2018 started out like any other winter day at Middlesex Health. First-shift employees arrived for work, patients trickled in, and exceptional care was given. By all accounts, it was a typical day—until 9:56 a.m.

That’s when a Middletown resident drove down Crescent Street and veered right, driving directly into Middlesex Health’s Emergency Department (ED) entrance. There was a loud crash. One minute later, the Emergency Department entrance was engulfed in flames.

There are many accounts of February 22 and the days that followed. Staff from across the continuum of care and throughout the hospital were impacted, and they worked together, along with contracted workers, to keep everyone safe and continue hospital operations, while also restoring the ED and its adjoining lobby in record time.

There were many heroes at Middlesex Health that day, especially ED staff, members of the security team, and the paramedics who ran toward danger to pull the driver out of the flames. When the car rammed into the ED entrance, a nurse and an employee from patient access ran toward the vehicle, but a security officer stopped them, sensing that an explosion was imminent because he smelled gas. He then helped another employee with an injured leg. The ED charge nurse yelled for everyone to get out of the building. They mobilized ambulatory and bed-bound patients and helped patients who came to Middlesex that day seeking care for injuries. Everyone was out of the Emergency Department by 10:00 a.m.

In addition to the ED, smoke threatened the hospital’s Crisis Intervention and Critical Care Units, and these patients were moved to safety quickly.

As patients and staff evacuated, ED physicians and various staff helped the driver. He had burns all over his body, and staff established IV access, sedated him, and secured his airway with intubation before he was airlifted to a burn unit.

While the actions taken by many that day can be described as heroic, Middlesex employees simply did what they do best—their jobs. They provided compassionate care, and they worked as a team to get through an incredibly difficult situation. They are modest heroes who provided the safest, highest

quality healthcare to members of their community, and on February 22, they did their jobs exceptionally well.

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 17th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.



###

### **About CHA**

The Connecticut Hospital Association has been dedicated to serving Connecticut's hospitals and health systems since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals and health systems on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.