



For Immediate Release

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CHA to Recognize The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital's Melissa Beecher, RN, as a Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 101st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Melissa Beecher, RN, The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, as a 2019 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated by Tim LeBouthillier for this award.

Ms. Beecher has been a nurse at The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Maternity Center for nine years. Just over a year ago, Ms. Beecher and her husband suffered the loss of their son, Cameron, at birth. Ms. Beecher's positive nature helped her turn this devastating and life-changing event into a way to assist and comfort other families who are experiencing the same tragic situation and heartbreak of losing an infant.

Ms. Beecher learned of the Cuddle Cot system, a cooling device and bassinette, developed in the United Kingdom and brought to the U.S. in 2013. This effective system allows families to spend extra time with their baby by regulating the child's temperature after a stillbirth. That gives angel parents the choice of extending their bonding time with their child as they begin the complex process of grieving their loss.

Both her own personal experience and her knowledge as an OB nurse gave Ms. Beecher the incentive to take action. She was able to channel her grief to help others by raising money to purchase a Cuddle Cot for The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, as well as one for another local hospital.

At The Charlotte Hungerford Hospital, the most difficult journey of loss and healing for parents who lose a child at birth can now start with family memories, which are made possible by Ms. Beecher's thoughtful generosity in the face of her own sorrow. The hospital is grateful to Ms. Beecher and her family for their selfless act of kindness in donating the Cuddle Cot to comfort angel parents.

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.



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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.