



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHA to Recognize Saint Francis Hospital's Keith Grant, BSN, RN, CIC as a
Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 98th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 28, 2016, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Keith Grant, BSN, RN, CIC, an infection preventionist at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, as a 2016 Healthcare Hero. He was nominated for this award by Kathleen A. Smith.

Mr. Grant goes beyond the call of duty on a regular basis. As an infection preventionist at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center for the past four years, Mr. Grant has made a number of invaluable contributions to the hospital's ability to respond to the emerging challenges of infection prevention.

During the Ebola crisis, Mr. Grant organized, evaluated, and led the initiative to ensure that there was appropriate and sufficient Personal Protection Equipment available should a patient present with travel history and/or signs of this highly infectious disease. He also helped establish a training program for the ED, Labor and Delivery, and Critical Care nurses and physicians.

Mr. Grant also "adopted" certain units at the hospital in an effort to better educate the nursing staff with regard to decreasing hospital-acquired infections, and most specifically catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTIs). He rounded on units and engaged in discussions with nurses to assess their level of understanding about the science of prevention and best practices to prevent CAUTIs. He identified two units to receive additional training, and partnered with them to provide the education.

When hospitals were faced with an increased focus on ensuring that pharmacies met USP 797 regulations for compounding, Mr. Grant partnered with his colleagues in the pharmacy and became an expert on the topic, attending training with pharmacists and developing and implementing plans to maintain sterility in the compounding areas.

Beyond his hospital role, Mr. Grant is a Captain in the United States Air Force and has been deployed twice, most recently to Europe for six months. He is a flight nurse and the Medical Crew Director responsible for the transport and care of critical patients from field hospitals to the most advanced healthcare facilities around the globe. Mr. Grant received the Humanitarian Medal from the U.S. Air Force for lifesaving care rendered under intense circumstances during Hurricane Katrina.

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 15th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.

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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, public health, and hospital reimbursement.

