



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **Connecticut Hospital Association to Recognize Day Kimball Healthcare Mission Volunteers as 2013 Healthcare Hero Team**

WALLINGFORD – At its 95th Annual Meeting on June 25, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize the Day Kimball Healthcare “2012 Why Not Haiti Mission Team” as the 2013 CHA Healthcare Hero Team.

In September 2012, a team of seven healthcare professionals from Day Kimball Healthcare, in conjunction with *Hope for Haiti*, conducted a medical mission trip to provide healthcare to the people of Haiti. During this seven-day medical mission, four clinics were set up and hundreds of Haitian people were treated daily. By necessity, the makeshift clinics were set up in decrepit buildings or in fields with no electricity or running water, with only folding chairs and tables on which to treat patients. What the team lacked in facilities, equipment, and supplies was more than made up for with every team member’s enthusiasm, spirit, and caring.

The team’s unwavering compassion was powerful and motivated them to achieve the otherwise impossible task of caring for a great number of people who were enduring desperate medical conditions.

The team persevered through the extreme heat and physical and emotional exhaustion to help as many people as possible. They dealt with the frustration of not being able to help everyone, and had to turn away hundreds of people at the end of the day or when medical supplies ran out. But team members made a difference in the lives of hundreds of Haitian people who were impoverished, malnourished, and extremely grateful to have someone to listen, care, and treat them.

The team will return to Haiti in November to set up clinics and conduct education sessions on how to collect clean water supplies, including the development of a prototype water filtration system, which will be tested on this mission.

The team will expand the initiative to include the development of a permanent healthcare clinic north of the city of Port Au Prince to help to ensure that the Haitian people have the opportunity to receive sustained healthcare as opposed to intermittent care.

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 12th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA’s Annual Meeting. The award is given annually to ten individuals and one team.



Top row, (l-r) Greg Lutkus, APRN; Douglas Waite, MD; Steven Wexler, MD; Ralph Miro, RN; Scott Mitchell, MD; Kristine Bastura; Deirdre Foisy, PA; Cheri Sage, RN; Cindy McNamara, MD; Avery Lamb. Bottom row (l-r): Ron Medzon, MD; Andrew Waite; Aimee Eaton, RN. Not pictured: Guinxe Gabriel, PharmD, MBA

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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, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.