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## **Connecticut Hospital Association to Recognize Windham Hospital's Yvette Martas, MD, as a 2013 Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 95th Annual Meeting on June 25, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Yvette Martas, MD, Obstetrician/Gynecologist, Windham Hospital, as a 2013 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award by Sharyn Mathews.

Dr. Yvette Martas is a woman with a mission. Her journey began in medical school, when clinical rotations drew her into the field of obstetrics, and she began to see OB as her chance to change the world.

In private practice, and affiliated with Windham Hospital, Dr. Martas treats women from eastern Connecticut with dignity and compassion, and is acclaimed by her patients and colleagues alike as a wonderful, caring physician. She spends her vacations tirelessly helping the less fortunate.

In the most remote areas of impoverished Central American countries, Dr. Martas volunteers with Grounds for Health, an organization founded to provide and teach gynecologic care to local caregivers for women who have no doctor or hospital within reach. "By making a difference in women's lives, we can also have a positive impact on the lives of their children," she said. While in Chiapas, Mexico, she and her colleagues examine and care for more than 500 women in a single week. It is unpaid, unsung, and she says, "truly the best thing I do each year."

Dr. Martas credits her dedication and work ethic to the values instilled in her by her parents. The daughter of Puerto Rican immigrants, she was taught to persevere, be respectful of the people who serve you, and to be compassionate, never forgetting where you came from. This attitude motivated her to work in the medical field.

Throughout her career, whether in the U.S. or abroad, in the hospital or in the fields of Central America, Dr. Martas has remained a consummate caregiver who works to improve the lives of the less fortunate. She is the personification of a healthcare hero.

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.



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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.