



For Immediate Release

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**CHA to Recognize St. Vincent's Health Services Denise Buonocore, MSN, ACNPC,
as a Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 97th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Denise Buonocore, MSN, ACNPC, CCNS, CCRN, CHFN, nurse practitioner with the Heart Failure Service at St. Vincent's Health Services in Bridgeport, as a 2015 Healthcare Hero. Denise, a resident of Milford, has worked at St. Vincent's for five years.

Ms. Buonocore has made three separate mission trips to bring her knowledge and experience to Haiti, one of the poorest nations in the world. When the largest hospital in northern Haiti sought to establish a heart failure program, colleagues reached out to ask if she would help. She agreed, not having any idea how extensive the project would become.

Working with other volunteers for the Crudem Foundation, Ms. Buonocore provided guidance on various aspects of heart failure clinic development, including implementation of clinical practice guidelines and consulting on the construction layout of a new clinic building. She worked with the local team to provide a process for standardizing documentation that was meaningful for the local physicians and for visiting volunteers.

She educated physicians and nurses about general cardiology and heart failure treatment, and saw patients in the heart failure/cardiology clinic and in the hospital in collaboration with American cardiologist volunteers and local Haitian colleagues. For patients too sick to travel to the hospital, she rounded with a local nun in the mountains to care for them.

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 14th 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, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.