



For Immediate Release

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Contact: Michele Sharp

Director of Communications and Public Affairs

(203) 317-1098

Sharp@chime.org

CHA to Recognize Curtis D. Robinson with an Honorary Lifetime Membership Award

WALLINGFORD – At its 97th Annual Meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 2015, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Curtis D. Robinson with an Honorary CHA Lifetime Membership Award. Mr. Robinson is being honored for his commitment to helping those in need, for his work on behalf of Connecticut hospitals as a member of the CHA Board, and for his remarkable career.

“We are extremely grateful for Curtis’s contributions during his time on the CHA Board, as well as his demonstrated commitment to improving the health of people in Connecticut,” said Jennifer Jackson, CEO, CHA. “Curtis has made it his mission to give back to those in need, and he serves as an inspiration. We are pleased to recognize him with an Honorary Membership Award.”

Born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama, Mr. Robinson got his first taste of entrepreneurialism at age eight, selling vegetables out of the back of a truck. Envisioning a brighter future for him than one he could achieve in the segregated south, his mother put him on a bus to Boston when he was only 16.

When he got off the bus late at night and realized he was in Hartford, not Boston, he slept on a bench in Bushnell Park and found a job the next day as a dishwasher. After working and saving for two years, he bought a small grocery store. Then he bought the building, apartments, and a hotel. He now owns many of the stores at Bradley International Airport and a construction company.

Determination, grit, and perseverance have been the hallmarks of Mr. Robinson’s career, but compassion has been his guide. In 1997, he was successfully treated for prostate cancer. Soon after, he became a member of the Board of Trustees at Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and discovered that many men, especially African-American men, were dying of prostate cancer because they had no insurance. He then became the charter donor in 2010 for the program that soon bore his name: The Curtis D. Robinson Men’s Health Institute. (The Institute’s name was recently changed to the Curtis D. Robinson Center for Health Equity to reflect the growing scope of this work to include testing and treatment for men and women with breast cancer, high blood pressure, and diabetes.)

Beyond his personal \$1 million commitment, he has reached out to churches, synagogues, salons, and other community organizations to spread the word that world-class care is available, even for those with little or no insurance. In six years, more than 7,000 men have been reached for prostate cancer education, and an estimated 40 lives have been saved.

The CHA Honorary Membership Award was established in 1968 to recognize certain individuals who distinguished themselves with their personal dedication and contributions to the advancement of healthcare services.



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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.