

## Pulmonary Support Group at Hospital for Special Care Celebrate 20 years



Pictured from left; Dr. Roger Thrall, Director of Clinical Research, Hospital for Special Care; Janet Bowen, Clinical Research Coordinator/Pulmonary Continuum of Care Specialist, Hospital for Special Care and John Votto, D.O., F.C.C.P., president and CEO, Hospital for Special Care.

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (July 23, 2014) – The Special Care Breath-Takers (a Pulmonary Support Group at Hospital for Special Care) in New Britain is celebrating 20 years of helping area residents and their families cope and manage their lives while dealing with respiratory impairments.

The group was established in July 1994 with the mission to offer education, emotional support and socialization. In the two decades since its inception, membership has grown from 18 to a roster of over 238 people that serves individuals from 18 towns in Connecticut. The increase in membership makes this support group the largest of its kind worldwide.

Monthly meetings are held at Hospital for Special Care. With its emphasis on improving quality of life through ever-expanding programs (including community outings and exercise classes). This unique group fulfills a need that no other aspect of healthcare can. The Pulmonary Support Group has received national recognition and is viewed as a benchmark for innovative and quality public healthcare.

Through the Three I's (Interaction, Information and Inspiration) group members are able to maintain self-esteem and a sense of community. This group has been celebrating its 20th anniversary milestone throughout the year. Events have included Rock Cats baseball games, Foxwoods Casino bus outings and a German Banquet at East Side Restaurant. Thanks to John Votto, D.O., F.C.C.P., president and CEO, Hospital for Special Care, Janet Bowen, HSC Clinical Research Coordinator/Pulmonary Continuum of Care Specialist, and Dr. Roger Thrall, HSC's Director of Clinical Research, support group members are able to enjoy a vibrant and active life.



*We Rebuild Lives*

### About Hospital for Special Care

*Hospital for Special Care (HSC) is one of the five largest, free-standing long-term acute care hospitals in the United States and the nation's only long-term acute-care hospital serving adults and children. HSC is recognized for advanced care and rehabilitation in pulmonary care, acquired brain injury, medically-complex pediatrics, neuromuscular disorders (including ALS research), spinal cord injury, comprehensive heart failure as well as diagnostic, assessment and consulting services for children and adolescents with autism spectrum disorders.*

*Located in New Britain and Hartford, CT, HSC operates inpatient and outpatient facilities serving Southern New England on a not-for-profit basis. For the latest news and information, please visit [www.hfsc.org](http://www.hfsc.org), and follow us on Twitter @HospSpecialCare.*

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