



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CHA to Recognize St. Vincent's Medical Center's Marilyn Faber, BSN, RN,
as a Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 99th Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 14, 2017, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Marilyn Faber, BSN, RN, Parish Nurse Coordinator, St. Vincent's Medical Center, as a 2017 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated for this award by Bill Hoey and Lucinda Ames.

Ms. Faber, a 35-year veteran of St. Vincent's Medical Center, is known for her hands-on healing. Nowhere is this illustrated better than her work at St. Vincent's "medical mission" event for the poor, where she leads parish nurses in washing the feet of homeless people in the community. Once you know everything that Ms. Faber has done to save lives in the greater Bridgeport area, it's easy to believe that she considers this act a privilege.

A founder of the Know Your Numbers (KY#s) campaign, Ms. Faber demonstrates a tremendous calling to serve the most needy and has led the hospital's efforts to address three top health concerns affecting Bridgeport area residents – cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and obesity – by performing blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, and BMI screenings. Ms. Faber realized that the program needed to serve poor people with no access to care where they were – in soup kitchens and food pantries – not the usual clinical settings.

The program has grown under her leadership, from eight sites in 2014 to 13 sites today, with 288 people served this year. Using the same philosophy of going where people are, and through her leadership of St. Vincent's Parish Nurse Program, Ms. Faber implemented "Blood Pressure Sundays" at area congregations, where an additional 255 people had their pressure checked in February.

Ms. Faber is currently working on a Community Development Block Grant to further expand the program. Additionally, she is working with a nutrition educator to develop a class to train food pantry volunteers to help clients make better food choices. She is also working with a Church Council representative, the UConn Rudd Center, and St. Joseph College to implement the "Stop Light" nutritional rating system to further assist pantry volunteers in recommending healthy foods.

Ms. Faber also possesses a passion for holistic healing and a strong spiritual calling, which has informed all aspects of her nursing career. While she honed her clinical skills as a St. Vincent's maternity nurse, she also learned to perform "Healing Touch" for maternity, cancer, and other patients in need. She is

the coordinator for the St. Vincent's Parish Nurse program, leading an active group of 76 churches and 222 registered nurses that extends healthcare services through local congregations of all faiths.

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 16th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.

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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, public health, and hospital reimbursement.

