



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2010

Contact: Leslie Gianelli
(203) 294-7213, Gianelli@chime.org

National Hospital Week Recognizes Those Who Care for Our Communities

Wallingford, CT – This week, May 9-15, has been designated National Hospital Week by the American Hospital Association, as a way to recognize the hospitals and healthcare workers providing round-the-clock care to their communities.

As the state and nation struggle with economic challenges, hospitals continue to provide the highest quality, safest care possible, thanks in large part to the skill and dedication of their employees. The healthcare safety net provided by hospitals is needed today more than ever, making this an appropriate time to acknowledge local hospitals and healthcare workers for all they do.

Connecticut's 29 not-for-profit acute care hospitals are always there when we need them, and are also major contributors to the economic health of our communities. Connecticut's hospitals provide more than \$12.9 billion to the state's economy, and offer nearly 50,000 jobs in the state at all skill levels.

In addition, our hospitals offer a variety of community benefit programs and services to help residents maintain and enhance their health, including healthy lifestyle education programs, programs for managing chronic conditions like asthma, and multi-faceted initiatives to address Connecticut's key public health challenges like heart disease and cancer. The total value of services and benefits provided to communities throughout the state in 2008 exceeded \$789 million.

"Healthcare issues have received a lot of attention the last few months," said Jennifer Jackson, CEO of the Connecticut Hospital Association. "As we discussed reform on a national level, those of us in healthcare never lost sight of the unique value our hospitals bring to our local communities. National Hospital Week gives us an opportunity to recognize and thank hospitals and healthcare workers for their profoundly important contributions to our communities."

###

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 not-for-profit hospitals on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, public health, and hospital reimbursement.