



**For Immediate Release**

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**R. Christopher Hartley, SVP, Planning, Business Development and Government Relations, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, Recognized as *Grassroots Champion***

WALLINGFORD – The American Hospital Association Grassroots Champion Award was given to R. Christopher Hartley, Senior Vice President of Planning, Business Development and Government Relations, Saint Francis Hospital and Medical Center, on May 6, 2014, and he will be honored at the CHA Annual Meeting on Wednesday, June 18, 2014. As a 2014 Grassroots Champion, Mr. Hartley will be recognized for his exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community support for issues of importance to hospitals and healthcare.

“Chris Hartley is a vocal advocate for hospitals and patients,” said CHA President and CEO Jennifer Jackson. “Our advocacy is about improving care for the people of Connecticut and sustaining strong, vibrant hospitals for generations to come – Chris drives these points home whenever he talks to legislators. Moreover, he doesn’t shy away from difficult conversations; rather, he approaches them with transparency, synthesizes complex issues for legislators, and provides valuable clarity. We are extremely pleased that he is this year’s Grassroots Champion.”

The award, given annually to one person in each state, was created to recognize hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials about how major issues affect hospitals' roles in the community, who have expanded the base of community support for hospitals, and who have been tireless advocates for hospitals and patients.

In addition to serving as Senior Vice President of Planning and Government Relations, Mr. Hartley is Staff Liaison for the Saint Francis Care, Inc. Board of Directors’ Public Policy Advisory Committee. He is also a member of the Johnson Memorial Medical Center Board of Directors. Mr. Hartley is a member of the American Hospital Association’s Society of Hospital Planning and Marketing. He received a Master’s Degree in Geography from the University of Missouri and a Bachelor’s Degree in Geography from the University of South Alabama. He and his wife, Eunice, live in South Windsor, Connecticut. They have three sons and four grandchildren.



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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, diversity, and hospital reimbursement.