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For Immediate Release

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**Hospital for Special Care Chief John Votto Announces Retirement Plan;
Lynn Ricci to succeed Votto as President and CEO**

NEW BRITAIN, Conn. (Sept. 17, 2015) – After 18 years as president and chief executive officer of [Hospital for Special Care \(HSC\)](#), John Votto, D.O., F.C.C.P., announced today that he will retire Oct. 1, 2016. The Center for Special Care (CSC), HSC’s parent organization, has appointed Lynn Ricci, FACHE, to succeed him effective Oct. 1, 2015 culminating a six-year succession plan.

Dr. Votto will remain as president and CEO of the Center for Special Care until Oct. 1, 2016 when Ricci will become president and CEO of both entities. Dr. Votto is credited with building the specialty care hospital into a national model of care for complex populations. Dr. Votto, a well-respected national expert in the field, is frequently called upon to offer technical opinions to government payers and policy makers. For many years, he has represented HSC and the National Association of Long Term Care Hospitals on Capitol Hill providing testimony to the Center for Medicare Services and the U. S. Congress.

Ricci will become HSC’s fourth CEO. Since joining the specialty care hospital in 2007, she has assumed increasing levels of responsibility serving as senior vice president and chief operating officer from 2011 to 2015 and vice president of administration from 2009 to 2011.

In addition to Ricci’s appointment as president and CEO, Paul Scalise, M.D., has been promoted to executive vice president. In addition to leading all clinical strategy and care delivery, Dr. Scalise will continue his role as chief medical officer. He joined HSC in 1993 and is board certified in both critical care and pulmonology. Dr. Scalise is credited for developing the hospital’s ventilator weaning program and most recently lead the development of the cardiac medical unit. He is a nationally respected physician who has authored numerous professional journal articles and clinical studies.

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“As a progressive organization, we have carefully planned for a leadership transition,” said David Kelly, chairman of the board, Center for Special Care, Inc. “The board unanimously endorsed Lynn as John’s named successor based on her nearly 25 years of long-term healthcare leadership experience and impressive record of accomplishments at HSC.”

“I am honored to be selected as HSC’s next president and CEO,” said Ricci. “It’s a privilege to lead an organization that is closely guided by its commitment to the community and passion to deliver care that improves the quality of people’s lives. I also want to thank John Votto for his support and guidance and for the tremendous impact that he has made on each and every one of us at Hospital for Special Care. “I am excited about the vast opportunities that are ahead for HSC and working to achieve them with Dr. Scalise and the rest of our dedicated team here at HSC.” Ricci said.

“With accomplished senior leadership and clinical talent, the HSC senior team is aligned around the hospital’s strategic objectives and has the requisite mix of skills necessary to lead HSC into the future,” Kelly said.

As part of the transition plan, Dr. Votto will serve as president of the CSC and will remain with the organization over the next year. Dr. Votto will continue to lead advocacy programs at the national level focusing on research and healthcare policy initiatives.

“Under John’s leadership, the Hospital for Special Care has flourished, and we are grateful for his commitment and vision,” said Kelly. “John has been instrumental in setting the strategy to build HSC into a national model for the long-term specialty care industry to follow. In endorsing Lynn as his successor, the board has expressed full confidence that Lynn has the skills and expertise to continue the high standards set for the hospital by John.”

“Lynn is a true champion of the HSC culture, and her strong leadership and team-building skills have enabled her to deliver an impressive record of accomplishments here at HSC,” said John J. Votto, D.O., F.C.C.P., president, Center for Special Care, Inc. “I consider passing the torch to Lynn to be one of my biggest accomplishments while at HSC.”

Most recently, Ricci led the planning and 2014 opening of the Maximilian E. & Marion O. Hoffman Foundation Outpatient Center which handles more than 30,000 outpatient visits each year across a spectrum of chronic and rehabilitative conditions, including spinal cord and brain injury, neuromuscular disease (muscular dystrophy and ALS-Lou Gehrig's disease), pulmonary disease and rehabilitation.

In 2012, Ricci spearheaded the development of the Autism Center at Hospital for Special Care in response to a rising need to care for children living with autism. The center became the nation’s first and only patient-centered specialty practice for autism recognized by the National Committee for Quality Assurance in 2015.

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Ricci holds a bachelor's, master's and sixth-year degree in Psychology and served 20 years as a licensed Long-term Healthcare Administrator. She is actively involved in the community through both professional and civic organizations. Ricci is a past Rotarian, an executive board member of the New Britain Academy for Health Professions, a board member of the Connecticut Alliance for Long Term Care, CCARC and the Community Foundation of Greater New Britain.

In 2015, Ricci was named a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives (ACHE), the nation's leading professional society for healthcare leaders.

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, and follow us on Twitter [@HospSpecialCare](https://twitter.com/HospSpecialCare).

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