



For Immediate Release

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**St. Vincent's Medical Center and Bridgeport Hospital to Receive the
Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award**

WALLINGFORD – At its 94th Annual Meeting on June 27, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will present St. Vincent's Medical Center and Bridgeport Hospital with the Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award for their project, the Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport.

Sponsored by CHA and the Connecticut Department of Public Health, the 2012 Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award recognizes this team's outstanding achievement in community service. St. Vincent's Medical Center and Bridgeport Hospital, in collaboration with the Primary Care Action Group, joined with Connecticut state agencies and the City of Bridgeport to create the Hope Dispensary of Greater Bridgeport.

The program, which opened on March 21, 2011, provides prescription medicines at no cost to uninsured, low-income residents of Greater Bridgeport. It is Connecticut's first Dispensary of Hope site. A licensed St. Vincent's pharmacist works onsite, assisted by an AmeriCorps intern. Medications for treatment of cardiac, pulmonary, mental health diseases, and diabetes are provided. An innovative system was developed to collect still-viable prescription medicines donated by physicians' offices and local pharmacies delighted to recycle their unused medicines and contribute to public health. Strict government regulatory and licensing standards are rigorously observed.

As of March 2012, more than 700 patients have been helped, and the value of medications dispensed has well surpassed \$100,000.

The Connecticut's Hospital Community Service Award, now in its 20th year, recognizes outstanding achievements in community service. It is sponsored jointly by the Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) and CHA.



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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, and hospital reimbursement.