



**For Immediate Release**

June 18, 2012

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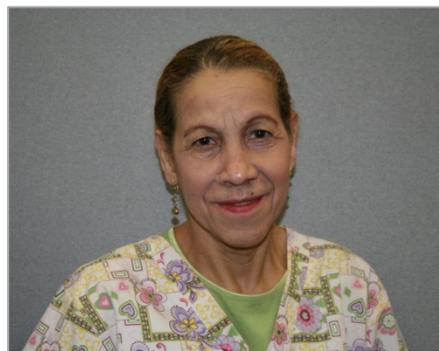
**Connecticut Hospital Association to Recognize Estrella Marcial, Home Care Aide at VNA HealthCare, as a 2012 Healthcare Hero**

WALLINGFORD – At its 94th Annual Meeting on June 27, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Estrella Marcial, Home Care Aide, Hospice, VNA HealthCare, as a *2012 Healthcare Hero*. She was nominated for this award by Luanne Salcito, Home Care Aide Supervisor.

Estrella was finishing up caring for one of her regular patients while a family member was preparing food in the kitchen close by. Screams prompted Estrella to run into the kitchen, where she found parts of the kitchen on fire. With a situation quickly escalating, Estrella took it upon herself to quickly take complete control of the situation.

Knowing that her patient was far enough from the fire and safe from harm, Estrella picked up a two-year-old boy and 5-year-old-girl from the apartment, quickly escorting them to a neighbor's house. Re-entering the apartment, she called 911. She commissioned the patient's son to assist in transitioning her bedbound patient into a wheelchair. She then wrapped the woman in a blanket and took her out of the apartment to a balcony. The firemen arrived, quickly put out the fire, and set up fans to clear the air. After the firemen verified that it was safe for family members to return to the apartment, Estrella brought her patient back to the bedroom, finished up her work, and continued on with the rest of her day.

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 11th year, the presentation of the Healthcare Heroes awards has become a highlight of CHA's Annual Meeting.



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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.