



For Immediate Release

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Connecticut Hospital Association to Recognize The William W. Backus Hospital's Matthew Spates, MD, as a 2012 Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 94th Annual Meeting on June 27, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Matthew Spates, MD, Emergency Department Physician, The William W. Backus Hospital, as a *2012 Healthcare Hero*. He was nominated for this award by his colleague Heather Beausoleil, Communications Specialist, The William W. Backus Hospital.

Dr. Spates has traveled 10 times to provide medical care in Cité Soleil (Sun City), a commune outside of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. During each visit, he spends four to five days in volunteer-operated clinics that treat 100-125 patients per day. His patients have little to no access to healthcare, and range in age and severity of illness.

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.