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Contact: Fiona Phelan
Manager, Communications and Public Relations
(203) 294-7206
Phelan@chime.org

CHA to Recognize Lawrence + Memorial Hospital Volunteer Naomi Rachleff as a Healthcare Hero

WALLINGFORD – At its 101st Annual Meeting on Thursday, June 20, 2019, the Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) will recognize Naomi Rachleff, volunteer, Lawrence + Memorial Hospital, as a 2019 Healthcare Hero. She was nominated by Bill Stanley for this award.

Ms. Rachleff, 89 years young, has been volunteering at Lawrence + Memorial Hospital for about 75 years, starting as a 15-year-old candy striper, working her way up to become President of the L+M Hospital Auxiliary, then joining the Board of Directors, where she rose to Vice Chairperson. She retired from the L+M Board approximately 15 years ago, having earned emeritus status.

During her many years of involvement with the hospital, she has worked tirelessly on fundraising. Ms. Rachleff helped L+M raise, literally, tens of millions of dollars. She chaired a modernization campaign for L+M back in the late 1980s and early 1990s that had a goal of \$7.5 million. Yet, the campaign finished with \$9.3 million raised. She was also very active as a member of the hospital's more recent Centennial Capital Campaign Cabinet, which raised more than \$30 million – a record – for the Smilow Cancer Hospital in Waterford. Ms. Rachleff remains a vibrant and enthusiastic advocate for the hospital. She is in touch with someone from L+M every day and the conversation is always about ways to help lead the hospital to great success in achieving its mission.

Ms. Rachleff still attends virtually all of the hospital's events – the benefactors' parties, the gala (during which she asks, "Don't you think the music's awfully loud?"), the Well Healed Woman conference, the Development Summit and, of course, all of the hospital's public forums so she can provide hands-on support for her beloved L+M Hospital.

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 17th 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 and health systems since 1919. Through state and federal advocacy, CHA represents the interests of Connecticut's hospitals and health systems on key healthcare issues in the areas of quality and patient safety, access and coverage, workforce, community health, health equity, and hospital reimbursement.