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## **Greater Hartford's Exceptional Nurses to Be Honored at 7th Annual Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing Gala**

**HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, April 30, 2009** – One home health care agency in Hartford set out to make a difference in the nursing shortage in Connecticut by emphasizing pride in the profession of nursing. This year will mark the seventh anniversary of the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing gala in Hartford, an annual event hosted by VNA HealthCare honoring nurses for going above and beyond the call of duty in an array of clinical and educational environments.

On April 30, 2009, more than 100 registered nurses and licensed practical nurses from all practices will be presented with Nightingale Awards at the Hartford Marriott Downtown. Criteria for selection, as established by a panel of professionals, require that an honoree has:

- Made a significant impact on patient care and/or the nursing profession
- Gone "beyond the call" in a clearly illustrated scenario
- Demonstrated excellence above what is normally expected
- Shown commitment to the community served in a way that is significantly above the norm
- Achieved a life-long legacy in a particular arena

The goals of the program are to focus public attention and recognize the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level, to encourage retention, and to address Connecticut's nursing shortage by inspiring future nurses.

Ellen Rothberg, President/CEO of the gala's host VNA HealthCare, reflected, "The Nightingale Awards is an amazing experience on so many levels. First and foremost--it is humbling to be a part of the recognition of nurses who by definition have continually given so much of themselves not only as professionals, but as nurturing caregivers, too."

Many of Greater Hartford's major health care organizations and practitioners enthusiastically support the Nightingale program. Over 35 health care organizations, including hospitals, medical practices, long term care facilities, home health care agencies, nursing schools, and community health centers attended and nominated nurses for the special honor last year.

**Major sponsors of the 2009 Hartford Regional Nightingale Awards are: Eastern Connecticut Health Network, Hartford Hospital, The Hospital of Central Connecticut, MidState Medical Center, St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center, and the University of Connecticut Health Center.**

For more information on the Nightingale Awards, please visit [www.nightingaleawardsct.org](http://www.nightingaleawardsct.org) <<http://www.nightingaleawardsct.org>> .

**Please note: the gala reception begins at 5:30 and the program begins at 6:30.**

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