

**Walgreens Pharmacy Partners with the Nightingale Awards  
Program In Support of Connecticut Nursing**

**NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT, January 15, 2008** - Walgreens Pharmacy, the nation's largest retail pharmacy chain, has recently joined forces with Connecticut's *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* as the exclusive Statewide Sponsor of the 2008 program.

The Nightingale program's goal of making a difference in Connecticut's nursing shortage by publicly celebrating and elevating the nursing profession is closely aligned with Walgreens' commitment to inspire future generations of nurses nationwide.

"Walgreens is proud to be the Statewide Sponsor for the Nightingale Awards and is honored to recognize excellence in healthcare," said Marlo Bish, a Registered Nurse and National Nurse Education Program Manager for Walgreens Pharmacy's SeniorMed Division.

"We are delighted to forge this new relationship between the Nightingale Awards program and Walgreens," stated Joanne Walsh, President and CEO of VNA of South Central Connecticut who developed and launched the Nightingale concept in 2001.

She continued, "The enthusiasm of the Walgreens leadership will undoubtedly add new energy and momentum to our statewide events. Together, I know we will continue to celebrate nursing and shine a light upon the many contributions of the profession and the individuals who embody the best practices of nursing throughout our State."

Held in honor of National Nursing Week, the 2008 award program to be held on May 8 is expected to honor more than 350 exceptional nurses from all fields of practice at four simultaneous galas in Wallingford, Stamford, Groton and Hartford. Criteria for selection, as established by a panel of professionals, require that an honoree has: made a significant impact on patient care, gone "beyond the call," demonstrated excellence, shown commitment to the community, and/or had an outstanding lifelong achievement.

Over 100 health care organizations, including the State's major hospitals, medical practices, longterm care facilities, home health care agencies, nursing schools, and community health centers attended the galas and nominated nurses for this special honor last year.

Connecticut regional hosts for the 2008 galas include: VNA HealthCare, Inc. - Hartford; VNA of South Central Connecticut, Inc. - New Haven; VNA of Southeastern Connecticut - New London; and Visiting Nurse & Hospice Care of Southwestern, CT - Stamford.

For more information on the Nightingale Awards, please visit [www.nightingalenursingawards.org](http://www.nightingalenursingawards.org) or call Jennifer Bernheim at VNA of South Central Connecticut at (203) 777-5521.