

November 18, 2010

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Last night *Gulfshore Life Magazine* honored six “Men and Women of the Year”—Joseph Catti, Tom Everist, Barbara Jordan, Simone Lutgert, Dolph von Arx and, I am pleased to say, me.

I thought you might be interested in what I said in receiving the award.

In accepting this honor tonight, I know that I do so as a representative of all the dedicated men and women at NCH Healthcare System, who answer the healthcare needs of our community every hour of every day.

All of us at NCH are driven by two guiding precepts, both of which, I believe, have great bearing on this honor we share tonight.

- First, is the overriding desire to use our individual ability and knowledge and success for the purpose of *helping others*.

Our talent, energy, and ambitions, harnessed in a selfless manner for the good of others, is really the noble goal that defines our individual success. And that is true whether we are trying to solve underlying community economic and social problems...creating a new museum for our children...leading the fight against abuse in our community...building the United Way to benefit the less fortunate among us...or any of the other selfless purposes for which we are honored tonight.

There is no question that each of us gathered together tonight in these magnificent surroundings has achieved personal success. But as wonderful and meaningful as that success as an individual is—the only way any of us really “grows” as a person is by contributing to the benefit of our fellow citizens.

That’s the real measure of a “*significant person*”—one who contributes to raising expectations and elevating society through helping others.

- And that leads to the second precept we hold dear at NCH—that “*We are all in this together.*”

Throughout this room we are blessed to be in the presence of friends, colleagues, and relatives, all of whom we need to realize our goals for our community. Clearly, truly significant goals cannot be reached through individual efforts, alone. Be it caring for the sick, educating the next generation, nurturing children, protecting the abused, removing barriers for the disadvantaged, preserving the environment, growing the economy—to reach our objective, we need to harness the power of a *team*.

That’s what I’m blessed with at NCH—a team of 3,600 colleagues, 630 doctors, 24 Board members, and countless other significant people, including most especially, a supportive and loving family.

All of us honored this evening are similarly surrounded, supported, educated, and shaped by a team of caring individuals who, working together, make this extraordinary community the special place it has become.

Respectfully,



Allen S. Weiss, M.D., President and CEO

P.S. Feel free to share *Straight Talk* and ask anyone to email me at allen.weiss@nchmd.org to be added.