April 18, 2013

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

More than most other professions, our special calling depends on the word "teamwork." Positive healthcare outcomes depend on the efforts of a cohesive team working together, all focused on serving the needs of a patient.

Such teamwork was vividly on display at the 3rd annual *Here's to Our Hero's in Healthcare* luncheon last week, sponsored by the *Naples Daily News* and attended by 200.

CNO Michele Thoman set the tone with her welcome, capturing the spirit of the unique enterprise we all represent.

- "As a Chief Nursing Officer at NCH, I am fortunate to have the opportunity to honor our nurses frequently with various forms of recognition. I can honestly say each and every time one has been chosen to be highlighted for the extraordinary care they provide they never accept it without saying, 'I couldn't have done it without the team,' or 'it's my co-workers that make it possible for me to do what I do.' You see healthcare workers are just like that...always giving back even when that recognition is directed their way."
- "In a time of rapid change and turbulence in the healthcare arena, it is important to take time and celebrate the big and small successes, reminding us all of the amazing life-changing contributions that are made by these heroes to our patients each and every day."

One of the eight awards was given to the NCH Cardiac Cath Lab team. Director **Stephen Cooke**'s comments, in accepting the Healthcare Professional award for his colleagues, echoed the special responsibility all of us share.

- "When we think of heroes we think of individuals and teams who are self-sacrificing. They put the needs of others above their own needs. This aptly describes all the honorees that are being recognized today as hometown heroes by the Naples Daily News. We perform about 100 emergency procedures per year. We are a Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) top performer in door-to-balloon times with three consecutive years of 100% compliance with times of 90 minutes or less."
- "The team members put their lives on hold when they take a call for the NCH Code Save-A-Heart program. The team puts all personal interests aside to serve their neighbors in our community by committing to be ready to care for anyone who suffers a heart attack, any time, day or night."

Our sincere thanks to our emergency room team, our nursing leadership, and our cardiac catheterization lab *Code Save-A-Heart* team. All are super heroes who nobly put others' needs above their own.

And speaking of "giving back," PharmD. **Nancy Reader,** NCH Co-Chair for Relay For Life, relates that this year's relay will be April 19-20 at Gulfview Middle School, with the survivor lap starting the event at 6 p.m. The Naples Relay, the premier relay in Florida, last year raised more than \$600,000 for the American Cancer Society. Speaking personally Nancy shared, "More importantly to me, they have been there to help my friends with cancer. I have been a caregiver to my two best friends and I hope that there won't be anymore. That's why I relay!" See you there.

Respectfully,

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

P.S. DO YOU HAVE A COLLEAGUE OR FRIEND WHO WOULD BE INTERESTED IN THESE UPDATES?

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