



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CHI **St. Joseph's** Health Employee Receives MHA Good Catch for Patient Safety Annual Award

PARK RAPIDS, MN (June 6, 2016) – The Minnesota Hospital Association (MHA) in May honored innovative programs & outstanding leaders in health care at its 32nd Annual Awards Ceremony. Seventeen awards were given for extraordinary achievement in categories ranging from advocacy on behalf of hospitals and volunteerism to innovation and improvement in patient care and patient safety.

CHI St. Joseph's Health's Sherrie Eischens, RN, was the recipient of the "Good Catch for Patient Safety" annual award. Sherrie received the quarterly award last summer and was selected as the annual winner among all quarterly recipients. Sherrie was selected because her actions prevented a possible adverse event that had the potential to directly affect a surgical patient. **Sherrie used one of CHI St. Joseph's Health's SafetyFirst Error Prevention Techniques STOP AND RESOLVE** whenever there is a question about a medical order.

The Good Catch for Patient Safety program recognizes hospital professionals for actions that protect patients and **demonstrate their commitment to keeping patients safe by "speaking up" to prevent a potential patient safety issue.**

"Each day, all across the state, Minnesota's hospitals and health systems are working to strengthen the health of our communities," said MHA President and CEO Lawrence Massa. "Our exceptional care teams set the bar high for patient care and for meeting the needs of their communities. Thanks to their expertise, diligence and commitment to excellence, Minnesota's hospitals continue to be among the best in the nation."

CHI St. Joseph's Health implemented its SafetyFirst program in 2011. The organization has been actively engaged in implementing MHA's safety best practices and numerous other initiatives promoted by its parent corporation Catholic Health Initiatives. This has included the formation of safety coaches throughout the organization, 3 ½ hours of Error Prevention Techniques training for all new staff, implementation of daily safety huddles, safety rounding by senior leadership, and the active engagement of CHI St. Joseph's Health Patient & Family Advisory Council.

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Cutline

Pictured from left are: Ben Koppelman, CHI St. Joseph's Health President; Sherrie Eischens, CHI St. Joseph's Health RN, ACU; Deb Haagenson, CHI St. Joseph's Health Vice President of Patient Care; and Chris Broeker, CHI St. Joseph's Health Director of Quality.

About CHI St. Joseph's Health

CHI St. Joseph's Health is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving communities in Hubbard, Becker, Cass and Wadena Counties since 1946. In recent years, CHI St. Joseph's Health's award-winning teams received several national honors including: The Joint Commission Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in surgery; Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, HealthStrong; WomenCertified's America's Best Hospitals Women's Choice Award in obstetrics; and the Studer Group Fire Starter Healthcare Organization of the Month among other national, regional and state recognitions.

About CHI

Catholic Health Initiatives, one of the nation's largest health systems, was formed in 1996 to strengthen the Catholic health ministry for the future. With deep roots in the tradition of expressing Christ's love by caring for those in need, Catholic Health Initiatives serves more than four million people each year

through acute care hospitals; long-term care, assisted and residential-living facilities; community-based health services; home care; research and development; and reference laboratory services.

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