

**2019 National Compassionate Caregiver of the Year®**

**Award Finalists Announced**

**…**

Six NCCY Award finalists to be honored at the

24th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner

**BOSTON (October 22, 2019)**—The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a national nonprofit dedicated to putting compassion at the heart of healthcare, has selected six finalists from across the U.S. for the 2019 National Compassionate Caregiver of the Year® (NCCY) Award. These finalists include healthcare professionals who make a profound difference through their unmatched dedication to compassionate care.

This year’s award recipient will be announced on November 21, 2019 at the 24th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner in Boston. More than 1,200 healthcare leaders, caregivers, supporters and others are expected to attend this event, which is co-chaired by Michael L. Blau, Partner, Foley & Lardner LLP; Michael Carson, President & Chief Executive Officer, Harvard Pilgrim Health Care; and Ann-Ellen Hornidge, Esq., Board Chair, Beth Israel Lahey Health. Keynote speaker will be Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, who will present the NCCY Award.

The NCCY Award program was created by the Schwartz Center in 1999 to honor outstanding healthcare professionals who display extraordinary devotion and compassion in caring for patients and families. Finalists are chosen by a national review committee, which includes past award recipients, in collaboration with representatives from the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Association.

This year’s dinner marks the beginning of the Schwartz Center’s 25th anniversary and offers an opportunity to celebrate the organization’s work and its contributions in advancing compassionate healthcare. The event will honor some of the earliest members of the Schwartz Center community who have been with the organization since it was founded in 1995, as well as recognize healthcare members from across the country who have spent more than a decade leading Schwartz Rounds®, the organization’s signature program.

“We are honored to recognize these inspirational individuals as the Schwartz Center’s 2019 NCCY Award finalists. Through their dedication to the compassionate delivery of care, they embody the values upon which the Schwartz Center was founded nearly 25 years ago, and show the path forward for healthcare,” said Matt Herndon, Schwartz Center CEO.

“It is a privilege to be able to shine a light on these extraordinary caregivers, who unfailingly treat their patients with kindness, dignity and warmth,” said Sharon McNally, Chair of the Schwartz Center Board.

“They are each an example of the very best the medical profession has to offer, and their approach to caregiving is the very definition of compassion.”

**The 2019 NCCY Award finalists are:**

* **Justin N. Baker, MD, FAAHPM, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, Memphis, TN –** Baker is chief of the division of quality of life and palliative care at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital and medical director of the QoLA – Quality of Life for All – team.
* **Joanne B. Glusman, MSW, LSW, APHSW-C, Bryn Mawr Hospital, Main Line Health, Bryn Mawr, PA –** Glusman is a clinical social worker on the palliative care team and an off-shift crisis social worker at Bryn Mawr Hospital, Main Line Health.
* **Elizabeth T. Heyne, PA-C, PsyD, Children’s Health, Dallas, TX –** Heyne is a certified physician assistant in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Children’s Health.
* **Jude Ierardi, RT, (R) (CT) (MR), St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Boston, MA –** Ierardi is a manager in the radiology department at St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center.
* **Sophia L. Maurasse, MD, McLean Hospital, Belmont, MA –** Maurasse is the medical director of the 3East Girls Intensive and Step-Down Programs at McLean Hospital.
* **Kari Rosenkranz, MD, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center,** **Lebanon, NH –** Rosenkranz is the medical director of the Comprehensive Breast Program at the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Norris Cotton Cancer Center.

More information about the award is available at [theschwartzcenter.org/award](https://www.theschwartzcenter.org/join/nccy). Information about the dinner is available at <https://www.theschwartzcenter.org/dinner>.

**About the NCCY Award**

The Schwartz Center’s National Compassionate Caregiver of the Year (NCCY)® Award is a national recognition program that elevates excellence in compassionate healthcare. Since 1999, the Schwartz Center has honored caregivers who demonstrate the characteristics of compassionate care, which include effective communication, emotional support, mutual trust and respect, the involvement of families in healthcare decisions, and treating patients as people, not just illnesses. Award finalists are chosen by a national review committee, which includes past award recipients, in collaboration with representatives from the American Diabetes Association, the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association, and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Association.

Visit [theschwartzcenter.org/award](https://www.theschwartzcenter.org/join/nccy) for details.

**About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare**

Established in 1995, the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a national nonprofit dedicated to putting compassion at the heart of healthcare, was founded on the belief that greater compassion and more meaningful collaboration are fundamental to the kind of care clinicians want to deliver and patients want to receive.

The Schwartz Center provides education, training and support to hundreds of healthcare members and more than 301,000 healthcare professionals in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand each year. Schwartz Center members rely on our programs, education and resources to support clinician well-being, enhance the quality of care, enable better outcomes and create a more positive and rewarding experience for all members of the care team, patients and their families. Our innovative Schwartz Rounds®unite caregivers from a range of disciplines to share experiences, learn from each other and focus on the human dimension of medicine.

The Schwartz Center’s Compassion in Action Healthcare Conference [compassioninactionconference.org](http://compassioninactionconference.org/) brings together clinicians, healthcare leaders and others to listen, learn and acquire new strategies for advancing a common goal of delivering more collaborative, compassionate care.

To help patients and family members acknowledge their caregivers who epitomize the qualities of compassionate care, the Schwartz Center established the Honor Your Caregiver program [honoryourcaregiver.org](https://www.theschwartzcenter.org/join/honor-your-caregiver).

Visit us at [theschwartzcenter.org](http://www.theschwartzcenter.org/) or follow us on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theschwartzcenter) or [Twitter](http://www.twitter.com/theSCCH).

**Media Contact**

Cathy Burke

ceburke@theschwartzcenter.org

617-643-6132

###