



2021 National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year® Award Recipients Announced

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Seven NCCY Award finalists to be honored at the
26th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner

BOSTON (November 2)—The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a national nonprofit dedicated to putting compassion at the heart of healthcare, has selected seven recipients from across the U.S. for the 2021 National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year (NCCY) Award. The Award recognizes extraordinary healthcare professionals from across the country who display extraordinary compassion in the care of their patients, colleagues and communities. This year’s media sponsor for the Award is Modern Healthcare.

The recipients will be celebrated on November 4, 2021, at the virtual 26th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner. Healthcare leaders, caregivers, supporters and others are expected to attend this event, which is co-chaired by Alexa B. Kimball, MD, MPH, president and CEO of Harvard Medical Faculty Physicians at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, and Tamar Thompson, head of Corporate Affairs for Alexion, AstraZeneca Rare Disease.

Keynote remarks will be given by Dr. Leana S. Wen, MD, MSc, FAAEN, public health expert and author of “Lifelines: A Doctor’s Journey in the Fight for Public Health.” The event will be hosted by Mallika Marshall, MD, health reporter for WBZ-TV and an Emmy-winning journalist and physician. It will feature a special performance by the Northwell Health Nurse Choir. To learn more, please visit theschwartzcenter.org/dinner.

“We are honored to recognize these inspirational individuals and teams as the Schwartz Center’s 2021 NCCY Award recipients. Through their dedication to compassionate care, often in some of the most difficult circumstances, they have helped create healing healthcare environments for patients, families and colleagues. They embody the values upon which the Schwartz Center was built,” said Elizabeth Hickman, Schwartz Center interim CEO and COO.

“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 healthcare has to offer, and their approach to caregiving is the very definition of compassion.”

The 2021 NCCY Award recipients are:

- **Nora Kramer, RN, MS, CNRN**, Thomas Jefferson University Hospital, Philadelphia, PA – During her 35-year nursing career, Nora has advocated for a wide variety of causes, including combatting human trafficking, substance use disorders, and gun violence.
- **Orlanda Mackie, MD**, Cook County Health, Chicago, IL – Dr. Mackie is a hospice and palliative provider at Cook County Health, a safety-net hospital where patients often come from disadvantaged and underserved populations.
- **Jose Morales, MD, MPH**, Kaiser Permanente, Santa Rosa, CA – Dr. Morales has been a pediatrician and strong advocate for the children and families of Santa Rosa, especially among underserved communities, for more than 20 years.
- **Sparkles Ransom, MSW, LCSW, C-ASWCM, C-SWHC**, Grady Memorial Hospital, Atlanta, GA – Sparkles is the director of social services and works with many vulnerable populations, including victims of gun violence, domestic abuse and sex trafficking.
- **Tamara Vesel, MD**, Tufts Medical Center, Boston, MA – Dr. Vesel is the chief of palliative care at Tufts Medical Center and an associate professor of medicine and pediatrics at Tufts University School of Medicine. She provides patient- and family-focused compassionate care for children, adults and their families alike.
- **The C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Assistance Resources and Education) Program**, Henry Ford Health System, Detroit, MI – The C.A.R.E. team provides many types of much-needed assistance and support to those caring for a loved one. These include virtual support groups, individual consultations and classes.
- **The H.E.A.R. (Healer Education Assessment and Referral) Team**, University of California, San Diego, CA – The H.E.A.R. team supports the first physician suicide prevention program of its scale in the country.

About the NCCY Award

Since 1999, the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare has honored outstanding healthcare professionals who display extraordinary devotion and compassion in caring for patients and families.

The National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year Award recognizes extraordinary healthcare professionals from across the country who embody the characteristics of compassionate care and whose professional achievements have helped to create healing healthcare environments

for patients, families, colleagues, and communities. Award finalists are chosen by a national review committee.

Visit theschwartzcenter.org/award for details.

About the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare

Founded in 1995, the Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare is a national organization whose mission is to put compassion at the heart of healthcare through programs, education and advocacy. The challenges facing healthcare professionals on the front lines of caring for us all during this global health crisis are unprecedented.

With 26 years of experience supporting, educating and training professional caregivers, COVID-19 has created an extraordinary demand for Schwartz Center programs. Since the coronavirus entered our communities, the Schwartz Center has worked with urgency to help address the mental and emotional health needs of healthcare providers during the pandemic.

The Schwartz Center has nearly 600 member healthcare organizations across 45 states in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. The benefits of membership extend to all staff within the member organization. There are also more than 200 healthcare organizations in the U.K. and Ireland conducting the Schwartz Rounds program through a partnership.

Our evidence-informed programs and resources have proven to be versatile, sustainable and effective across diverse settings, including acute care and rehabilitation hospitals, outpatient clinics, cancer centers, Veteran's Administration medical centers, organ procurement organizations, nursing homes, hospice providers, and health insurers.

Schwartz Center members rely on our offerings to support clinician mental health and 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.

We partner with healthcare organizations and systems to achieve a shared vision of a world where all who seek and provide care experience compassion.

Visit us at theschwartzcenter.org or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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