



2022 National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year® Award Recipients Announced

...

Six NCCY Award finalists honored at the
27th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner

BOSTON (November 4)—The Schwartz Center for Compassionate Healthcare, a national nonprofit dedicated to putting compassion at the heart of healthcare, has selected six recipients from across the U.S. for the 2022 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.

The recipients were celebrated on November 3, 2022, at the 27th Annual Kenneth B. Schwartz Compassionate Healthcare Dinner in Boston, Mass. Healthcare leaders, caregivers, supporters and others attended this event, which is co-chaired by **Robert Coughlin**, managing director of JLL, **Deborah Marcus**, executive of the CAA Foundation, and **Travis A. McCready**, executive director and national practice leader for the U.S. life sciences markets of JLL.

Keynote remarks were given by **Corey Feist, JD, MBA**, president and co-founder of the Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes' Foundation. He shared the exciting news about their work with the Schwartz Center to create a comprehensive affiliation with the Schwartz Center to work across health systems and inspire hope for the future of healthcare. It featured a special performance by **Dr. Elvis Francois**. To learn more, please visit theschwartzcenter.org/dinner2022.

"The Schwartz Center's 2022 NCCY Award recipients are inspiring caregiver who have helped create healing healthcare environments for patients, families, colleagues, and communities. Through their dedication to compassionate care, they embody the mission of the Schwartz Center," said Elizabeth Hickman, Schwartz Center interim CEO and COO.

"We owe so much to the healthcare community for caring for all of us since the start of the pandemic. We are so grateful--and that's why we gather to celebrate and recognize these caregivers. It is a privilege to be able to recognize their extraordinary work," said Mark E. Reynolds, chair of the Schwartz Center Board. "Each of them represents the highest ideals of compassionate healthcare."

The 2022 NCCY Award recipients are:

- **Lindsay P. Carter, MD**, Mass General for Children, Boston, MA – Dr. Carter has served as an inpatient medical director, pediatric hospitalist, and quality and safety leader at Mass General for Children. She brings her passion and creativity to every interaction with her patients and colleagues, and has introduced several initiatives to foster more supportive and inclusive working environments and find unique ways to empower and engage with patients.
- **Peter DeBlieux, MD**, University Medical Center New Orleans, LA – Dr. DeBlieux is the chief experience officer and an emergency physician at the University Medical Center, where he is a long-standing advocate for the care of New Orleans’ marginalized communities. He has created several programs to support his colleagues – especially during COVID-19 and natural disasters.
- **William “Donnie” Nelson, BSN, RN, PHN, CPHN**, Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center, San Francisco, CA -- Donnie is a nurse manager of palliative care practices at both Saint Francis Memorial Hospital and St. Mary’s Medical Center in San Francisco. He cares for some of the most complex cases and most vulnerable patients, many of whom suffer from homelessness, poverty, and substance use disorders, in addition to their physical comorbidities.
- **Zahidee “Saidie” Rodriguez, MD**, Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Atlanta, GA -- Dr. Rodriguez is a pediatric cardiologist and intensivist at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta. She cares for critically ill children with congenital heart disease and their families. She is committed to going the extra mile to help the patients and families in her care.
- **Beba Tata-Mbeng, MDIV, MPH, BCC**, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville, FL -- Beba Tata is the manager of spiritual care for Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL. Beba is known as an exceptional colleague who is dedicated not only to her patients — but also to her colleagues. She has developed several programs that focus on healing and compassion for both patients and staff.
- **The David James Hospice Unit Team**, Edith Nourse Rogers Memorial Veterans’ Hospital, Bedford, MA -- The David James Hospice Unit Team is comprised of a wide array of caregivers dedicated to giving veterans the best possible care at the ends of the lives. The team consists of doctors, nurses, nurse practitioners, recreation therapists, social workers, chaplains, psychologists, dietitians, licensed practical nurses, and nursing assistants. The hospice team ensures that all aspects of their Veteran’s and family’s needs are met with compassion, by offering education, symptom management and psychological support.

About the National Compassionate Caregivers of the Year 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 27 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](#).

Media Contact

Christina Parks
cparks@theschwartzcenter.org
508-942-6551

###