



Contact: Marie Watteau at AHA (202) 626-2351

Samantha Dean at AHA (202) 626-2264

Patricia Aidem at Providence (661) 755-1322

### **Providence Little Company of Mary, TrinityCare Hospice and**

### **Providence Institute for Human Caring to be honored by AHA**

### ***“Whole person” care concept receives national Circle of Life Award***

**WASHINGTON** (July 12, 2017) — A trio of Providence Health & Services organizations that team to provide palliative care and care through the end of life will be honored later this month with the American Hospital Association’s prestigious 2017 Circle of Life Award.

The AHA announced today it will join its partners in honoring [Providence TrinityCare Hospice](#), [Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Center Torrance](#) and the [Providence Institute for Human Caring](#) at a July 28 ceremony in San Diego. For 18 years, the AHA and partners have presented the Circle of Life Award to celebrate programs across the nation that make great strides in palliative care.

“This year’s Circle of Life honorees have done incredible work incorporating palliative and end-of-life care into all aspects of care,” said AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack. “Our members are showing that palliative care services go beyond the four walls of a hospital. They are provided in specialty clinics, outpatient centers and in a patient’s home — and increasingly as part of a coordinated continuum of service.”

The three Providence organizations work together to provide “whole-person care” to every patient — essentially embedding the principles of palliative care throughout its system.

“This award reflects a true team effort across three Providence organizations,” said Glen Komatsu, M.D., chief medical officer of Providence TrinityCare Hospice and regional palliative care.

The AHA lauded the collaboration among the hospital, the hospice program and the institute:

“Providence believes there is no reason to limit the tenets of palliative care to patients with life-threatening illnesses if others can also benefit from having a more highly personalized approach to their emotional, psychosocial and spiritual needs, in addition to receiving best-in-class medical treatment,” according to an AHA press release. “Providence seeks to have an advance directive on medical charts before patients undergo surgery — even for relatively minor procedures. By concentrating on the values,

preferences and priorities of patients and their families, the collaborative is able to use a data-driven and metrics-backed approach to ensure a clear patient voice is at the center of care.”

The 2017 awards are supported, in part, by grants from the California Health Care Foundation, based in Oakland, Calif., and the Cambia Health Foundation, based in Portland, Ore. Major sponsors of the 2017 awards are the American Hospital Association, the Catholic Health Association and the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization & National Hospice Foundation. The awards are co-sponsored by the American Academy of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, the Center to Advance Palliative Care, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, the Hospice and Palliative Credentialing Center, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Foundation and the National Association of Social Workers. The Circle of Life Award program is administered by the Health Research & Educational Trust.

Circle of Life Award nominations were reviewed and the selection committee, which included leaders from medicine, nursing, social work and health administration, visited each site. The Circle of Life Award honors palliative programs that:

- Serve people with life-limiting illness, their families and their communities;
- Demonstrate effective, patient/family-centered, timely, safe, efficient and equitable palliative and end-of-life care;
- Use innovative approaches to meet critical needs and serve as sustainable, replicable models for a segment of the field, particularly for marginalized populations;
- Pursue quality improvement consistent with the National Consensus Project Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care, NHPCO Standards of Practice for Hospice Programs or other widely-accepted standards, within their resources and capabilities;
- Address medical, psychosocial, spiritual and cultural needs throughout the disease trajectory;
- Actively partner with other health care organizations, education and training programs, the community, providers of care, and/or insurers; and
- Use metrics that demonstrate significant impact and value for individuals, families and communities.

Also receiving the Circle of Life award is Bluegrass Care Navigators in Lexington, Ky. Life Course-Allina Health, Minneapolis, Minn.; Midland Care Connection, Topeka, Kan.; and University of Wisconsin Palliative Care, Madison, Wis., will receive Citations of Honor.

For more information on the Circle of Life Award and Providence whole person care, visit [www.aha.org/circleoflife](http://www.aha.org/circleoflife), [@Human\\_Caring](https://twitter.com/Human_Caring) and #wholepersoncare.

###

**About Providence Health & Services:**

Providence Health & Services, Southern California, is a Catholic not-for-profit, mission-driven healthcare system. Providence Southern California operates six award-winning hospitals and a comprehensive, fully-integrated network of primary care clinics, urgent care centers, home care, TrinityCare and TrinityKids Care hospice as well as Providence High School. Providence is anchored locally by Providence Holy Cross Medical Center in Mission Hills, Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank, Providence Saint John's Health Center in Santa Monica, Providence Tarzana Medical Center and Providence Little Company of Mary Medical Centers in Torrance and San Pedro. With more than 3,400 physicians, Providence provides coordinated primary and specialty care through an array of physician groups and individual providers including Providence Medical Institute and physician groups in the South Bay, the West Valley and Santa Clarita. Providence affiliate, Facey Medical Group, provides primary and specialized care in the San Fernando and Santa Clarita valleys and Simi Valley. In 2016, Providence united with St. Joseph Health to form a new organization, Providence St. Joseph Health, with 50 hospitals in seven states. For more information, visit [California.providence.org](http://California.providence.org).

**About the American Hospital Association (AHA)**

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the improvement of health in their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which include nearly 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information visit [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

###