



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Nancy Clarke
(773) 292-7354 or nclarke@nahospital.org

CARE-A-VAN PROGRAM WINS PRESTIGIOUS AHA NATIONAL AWARD

*Norwegian American Hospital is one of 5 community
health programs to receive honor*

CHICAGO (July 13, 2017) – The American Hospital Association announced that the Norwegian American Hospital Pediatric Care-A-Van will receive a prestigious AHA NOVA Award at its annual Health Leadership Summit in San Diego, Calif., on July 29. Established in 1993, only five AHA NOVA Awards are given nationwide each year. The award honors hospital-community collaborations that improve community health.

“Hospitals care not only for patients, but also move beyond their four walls to work tirelessly with community groups and organizations to offer care in the community,” said AHA President and CEO Rick Pollack. “The programs recognized by this year’s AHA NOVA Award inspire us all with their collaborative, caring approach to improving community health and wellness.”

Established in 2008, the Pediatric Care-A-Van is a state of the art mobile clinic that provides preventive care – including physicals, immunizations and screenings for lead, hemoglobin, hearing and vision – to local underserved children in a partnership with Chicago Public Schools.

In response to community needs and public health priorities, health education is also included in patient visits according to the specific needs of each patient. When parents are present for the visit, they are included in the educational discussions and are informed of health insurance options. The services are free and provided at various school sites according to an established schedule, as well as at preschools, day care centers and other community locations. The Care-A-Van has served more 3,000 children a year across 80 public schools.

José R. Sánchez, president and CEO of Norwegian American Hospital, said, “We are very honored to have the Care-A-Van program recognized with this prestigious award. It affirms the work we’ve been doing throughout the community. Our goal in starting the pediatric mobile health program was to increase access to quality health care, especially for the community’s medically underserved children. The Care-A-Van also helps link families with an appropriate primary care system for further healthcare services if the need should arise. And finally, we’ve been able to diagnose common ailments in thousands of children through the Care-A-Van program, making it possible to begin treatment immediately so that these children miss less school time and their parents miss less time from work.”

###

Norwegian American Hospital is an acute care hospital located in Chicago's Humboldt Park neighborhood. With a mission of being dedicated to passionately caring for the health of patients and the community, the hospital has provided high-quality as well as comprehensive health care to residents of the community since 1894. A 200 bed facility, Norwegian American Hospital has a wide range of specialty programs and services. For more information about Norwegian American Hospital, visit www.nahospital.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.