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Palm Health Foundation “Heart of Gold” Event Honors South Palm Beach County Nurses – South County

May 17, 2019 – Palm Health Foundation hosted its sixth annual Heart of Gold Nursing Reception on Thursday, May 9, 2019 at the Quail Ridge Country Club in Boynton Beach to honor the extraordinary work of local nurses and recognize Palm Beach County’s 2019 Nurses of the Year. The event concludes the foundation’s four-week Thank a Nurse campaign, generously sponsored by Tenet Health and VITAS Healthcare.

More than 300 guests attended the Heart of Gold Reception sponsored by The Law Offices of Craig Goldenfarb, Trustbridge, Christine E. Lynn and the E.M. Lynn Foundation, Academy for Nursing and Health Occupations, Lynda Harris Home Health RN and Palm Beach Atlantic University. Media sponsors were The Palm Beach Post, WPEC CBS12 and Hubbard Media.

Master of Ceremonies and media personality Roxanne Stein presided over the evening's presentation of the 2019 Nurses of the Year. Thirteen nurses representing all regions of Palm Beach County and a wide variety of nursing disciplines, including oncology, Alzheimer's care, hospice and pediatrics, as well as nursing educators, were recognized.

Four nurses from South Palm Beach County were named as Palm Health Foundation 2019 Nurses of the Year:

Alexandria Alexander, RN, of Boynton Beach

Alexander is a trauma/ICU nurse at Delray Medical Center. Formerly caring for soldiers in the military, she is a lifelong learner who reaches out to nearly every new nurse that comes to her unit to help ease the transition. She also frequently volunteers in the community.

Michelle Collins-Bethel, LPN, of Delray Beach

Collins-Bethel is a family nurse consultant at Alzheimer's Community Care. She works tirelessly to provide patients and their family caregivers with compassionate, community-based, dementia-specific care. Recently, she assisted a homeless patient who lost his sole family caregiver. She worked to place him in a safe environment to ensure his comfort and dignity.

Zamy Garzon, RN, BSN, BS in Biology, of Boynton Beach

Garzon is a staff nurse in the medical surgical unit at West Boca Medical Center. Her peers cite her infectious smile and upbeat personality to brighten her patients' days. She is known for her attention to detail, leadership and commitment to her patients, peers, hospital and profession.

Dr. Marlaine Smith, RN, PhD, AHN-BC, FAAN, of Boca Raton

Dr. Smith is dean and professor of Florida Atlantic

University's Christine E. Lynn College of Nursing. With her innovative leadership, the college ranks in the top one percent in NCLEX and FNP certification exam rates in Florida and the U.S. Dr. Smith is a fellow of the prestigious Academy of Nursing and has published more than 100 articles and book chapters.

Proceeds raised from the Heart of Gold event and Thank a Nurse campaign will benefit nursing scholarships in Palm Beach County. Palm Health Foundation has granted \$3 million in nursing scholarships to more than 1,000 nursing students for advanced education to provide quality nursing care to Palm Beach County residents. Prior to the Heart of Gold reception, the foundation hosted the 39 2019 Palm Health Foundation nursing scholarship awardees. The foundation partners with the George Snow Scholarship Fund to administer scholarships to the next generation of county nurses.

Palm Health Foundation is recognized by nursing leaders and educators for its dedication to growing and strengthening the nursing workforce in Palm Beach County since its inception in 2001. In addition to nursing scholarships, the foundation has invested more than \$10 million in initiatives to build a highly-skilled nursing workforce that provides care across all settings and supports optimal health in the community.

"Nurses are often the unsung heroes of our healthcare system," said Patrick McNamara, president and CEO of Palm Health Foundation. "Our Thank a Nurse campaign and Heart of Gold reception gives us a chance to share their stories of care and compassion and honor their tireless contributions to our community."

About Palm Health Foundation

Palm Health Foundation is Palm Beach County's community foundation for health. With the support of donors and a focus on results, the foundation builds strong community partnerships, respects diverse opinions, advocates for its most vulnerable neighbors and inspires innovative solutions to lead change for better health now and for generations to come. The foundation supports health equity for Palm Beach County residents of all backgrounds, heritage, education, incomes and

states of well-being. Palm Health Foundation has invested more than \$78 million in Palm Beach County health since 2001. For more information about Palm Health Foundation, visit palmhealthfoundation.org or call (561) 833-6333.

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