



The Foster G. McGaw Prize  
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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **LANCASTER GENERAL HEALTH/PENN MEDICINE EARNS NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EXEMPLARY COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*Lancaster, Pennsylvania healthcare provider selected  
as finalist for 2015 Foster G. McGaw Prize*

CHICAGO and Lancaster, Penn., January 14, 2016 – In honor of its broad-based efforts to improve the lives of the most vulnerable members of its community, [Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine](#) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania was named a finalist for the prestigious 2015 [Foster G. McGaw Prize](#) for Excellence in Community Service, one of the most esteemed community service honors in healthcare.

The Foster G. McGaw Prize is sponsored by The Baxter International Foundation and the American Hospital Association (AHA) and Health Research & Educational Trust. This year marks the award's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary. As a finalist, LG Health/Penn Medicine will receive \$10,000 to be used to support their community health initiatives.

“Lancaster County is extremely diverse, and Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine and its partners are committed to meeting the needs of every segment of the population,” said John O’Brien, chair of the Foster G. McGaw Prize Committee. “The health system’s noteworthy initiatives include meeting the unique needs of the Amish community; providing medical, behavioral health and socioeconomic services to chronically ill and complex patients; addressing the obesity epidemic; establishing a Refugee Health Network for local refugees; and reducing tobacco use through a Tobacco Free Coalition.”

Founded in 1893, Lancaster General Hospital has been committed since its start to delivering exemplary healthcare to anyone in need, regardless of their ability to pay. Now a member of the University of Pennsylvania Health System, Lancaster General Health/Penn

Medicine employs more than 7,500 and is the largest employer in Lancaster County. LG Health/Penn Medicine comprises a 533-bed general hospital and a 97-bed hospital focused entirely on women's health, including a Level III NICU, and operates 14 outpatient facilities, a network of 47 primary and specialty care physician practices, three school-based health clinics, the county's only clinic for HIV and AIDS patients, a child sexual assault center and a home-health company. The organization also fills the void created by the community's lack of a county health department by taking on community health responsibilities including assessment, planning and implementation of strategies to improve the health and well-being of the communities it serves through prevention, early detection, treatment and recovery for every age and stage of life.

"We are humbled by this national honor that recognizes the collaborative efforts of our work with community partners to improve the health and well-being of those living throughout Lancaster," said Jan Bergen, president and CEO, Lancaster General Health.

The organization was recognized for such innovative community service initiatives as:

- **Amish Neighbor Partnership** – Lancaster County is home to America's oldest Amish settlement, made up of more than 27,000 people. LG Health/Penn Medicine works closely with the community to understand its religious beliefs, practices and current healthcare needs, and to develop programs that meet those needs. Its CEO meets quarterly with Amish bishops to discuss how the organization can assist the Amish community. With help from community partners, LG Health/Penn Medicine has been providing free immunizations to at-risk Amish children for 25 years, and since 2009, has been hosting health education programs in the homes of Amish women to educate them on a wide range of health and healthy lifestyle issues.
- **Care Connections** – Founded in 2011, this initiative provides medical, behavioral health and socioeconomic services to chronically ill and complex patients in Lancaster County. An interdisciplinary team of professionals helps coordinate care and engage patients in improving their health. Results show that inpatient hospitalizations among patients enrolled in the program have decreased 66 percent and emergency rooms visits have decreased 33 percent.
- **Tobacco Free Coalition** – This multi-sector partnership that includes hospitals, the American Cancer Society, schools, health and human service groups, municipalities and others is dedicated to reducing tobacco use in adults and preventing it in future generations. The initiative has helped decrease the percent of current adult smokers in the county from 24 percent in 2001 to 14 percent in 2012. In addition,

the percentage of adults receiving tobacco dependence treatment services who still had not smoked 30 days post-intervention increased from 37 percent in 2013 to 60 percent in 2014.

“The Foster G. McGaw Prize recognizes health care organizations that serve as role models for improving the health and well-being of the people in their communities,” said O’Brien. “This year’s winner and finalists offer a broad spectrum of programs to improve population health in their specific communities. Their outstanding leadership and collaboration serve to improve physical and behavioral health – as well as address social determinants of health – and thus make a positive difference in people’s lives.”

The 2015 winner of the \$100,000 Foster G. McGaw Prize is Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. It was recognized for its dedication to addressing social and economic determinants of health, reducing barriers to care for vulnerable populations, and promoting health equity.

In addition to LG Health/Penn Medicine, other finalists include ThedaCare in Appleton, Wisconsin and St. Joseph Health, Queen of the Valley Medical Center in Napa, California.

**Lancaster General Health/Penn Medicine**, a member of the University of Pennsylvania Health System (Penn Medicine), is a 689-licensed bed not-for-profit health system with a comprehensive network of care encompassing Lancaster General Hospital (LGH), Women & Babies Hospital and the Lancaster Rehabilitation Hospital (in partnership with Kindred Healthcare). Its membership in Penn Medicine brings together the strengths of a world-renowned, not-for-profit academic medical center and a nationally recognized, not-for-profit community healthcare system. For more information, visit [www.lancastergeneralhealth.org](http://www.lancastergeneralhealth.org).

**The Foster G. McGaw Prize**, celebrating 30 years of honoring excellence in community service, recognizes healthcare organizations committed to community service through a range of programs that demonstrate a passion and continuous commitment to making communities healthier and more vital. The prize, first awarded in 1986, inspires hospitals, health systems and communities to assess and implement programs that improve their communities. For more information, visit [www.aha.org/foster](http://www.aha.org/foster).

**The American Hospital Association** is a not-for-profit association of healthcare 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 the website at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

**The Baxter International Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of Baxter International Inc. (NYSE:BAX), helps organizations expand access to healthcare in the United States and around the world. The foundation, established in 1981, focuses exclusively on increasing access to healthcare particularly for the disadvantaged and underserved in

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Founded in 1944, the **Health Research & Educational Trust** (HRET) is a private, not-for-profit organization involved in research, education, and demonstration programs addressing health management and policy issues. An affiliate of the American Hospital Association, HRET collaborates with healthcare, government, academic, business, and community organizations across the United States to conduct research and disseminate findings that shape the future of healthcare. For more information about HRET, visit [www.hret.org](http://www.hret.org).

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