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**HCA ANNOUNCES NATIONAL 2008 FRIST HUMANITARIAN AWARD RECIPIENTS**

**Nashville, Tenn., April 20, 2009** – HCA today announced the recipients of the 2008 Frist Humanitarian Award. Michael J. Wawrzewski III, a Physician Assistant at Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas, Lynn Poe, a volunteer at Coliseum Northside Hospital in Macon, Ga., and Laurence Lesser, M.D., a Staff Physician at Emory Eastside Medical Center in Snellville, Ga., were honored today during a ceremony in Nashville.

Established in 1971, the awards honor outstanding individuals for their humanitarian and volunteer activities. The Frist Humanitarian Awards are given annually in recognition of the caring spirit and philanthropic work of the late Dr. Thomas Frist, Sr., a founder of HCA. Employees, volunteers and physicians who demonstrate commitment and dedication to providing care and humanitarianism are selected from around the country and honorees are recognized at the local level. The three national recipients are selected from more than 230 local honorees.

The highest honor HCA employees, volunteers and physicians can receive, the Frist Humanitarian Award includes a \$5,000 donation to the charity of the recipient's choice and \$5,000 in cash for the employee and volunteer. The physician honoree receives a \$10,000 donation to their charity of choice.

In 1996, Wesley Medical Center Physician's Assistant Michael J. Wawrzewski III went on a mission trip to Bolivia, and he was dismayed by the lack of basic medical care. That experience planted the seed for Hospitals of Hope, a Christian non-profit organization that Michael founded to provide free medical care to the poor in countries like Bolivia and Liberia. Under his leadership, Hospitals of Hope recently built a modern Level II trauma hospital in Bolivia that has provided free healthcare services to more than 100,000 patients. Michael also created "Clinic in a Can" which transforms semi-trailers or shipping containers into medical and dental clinics that provide essential medical services in places like Haiti.

Michael's compassion also touches those closer to home. He established the Wichita Hospital of Hope network to provide free medical equipment to local clinics serving the uninsured. He also helped lead an effort that raised more than \$30,000 for tornado victims in Greensburg, Kansas.

"Michael has demonstrated extraordinary commitment and compassion, dedicating his life to caring for others," said Richard M. Bracken, President and Chief Executive Officer of HCA. "He is a wonderful representative of HCA and our colleagues across the country who make patients' lives better every day."

Lynn Poe worked as a nurse at Coliseum Northside Hospital for 25 years before she retired in 2004. The very next day, however, she signed up as a volunteer at the hospital. Lynn now works in the hospital gift shop, helps with charity fundraisers, assists with blood pressure checks and screenings at the annual Health Fair, and more.

Lynn also reaches out to neighbors, elderly acquaintances and even four-legged friends. She created a “Sitters Ministry” to relieve family members who are caring for loved ones, rallying her Mabel White Memorial Baptist Church “Women of Faith” Sunday School class to help. She has also volunteered at Heartland Hospice on weekends, visiting patients and helping with clerical work.

“Lynn has lived our mission as a nurse for many years, and she continues to do that as a volunteer, touching countless lives,” said Bracken. “She continues to inspire the people around her through her compassion for people in need, and we are thrilled to recognize her today for her innumerable contributions.”

Laurence “Lanny” Lesser, M.D., a cardiologist at Emory Eastside Medical Center, co-founded the Gwinnet Community Clinic in 1989. Staffed by volunteer physicians, nurses and pharmacists, the clinic provides state-of-the-art care to thousands of Gwinnet residents who otherwise could not afford it. In addition to volunteering at the clinic on his own time, Dr. Lesser serves as the medical director and volunteer physician for Big Heart camp, a summer camp for children and adults with special health needs, and he works to provide healthcare and supplies for people in Eastern Europe.

Equally dedicated to his profession, Dr. Lesser eagerly shares his expertise. He offers leadership to the Department of Medicine and has been a member of the Medical Executive Committee for nearly 20 years. In addition, Dr. Lesser mentors medical students, holds in-services for hospital staff on new techniques and procedures, and provides EKG and EMT training to the local fire department.

“Lanny exemplifies the selfless devotion to others shared by physicians everywhere,” said Bracken. “Whether through directly caring for patients, his leadership on Emory Eastside’s Medical Executive Committee or his community service, he is a living example of our mission.”

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