

NEWS RELEASE

Contact:

Sherri Zerkel

sherri.zerkel@hearttoheart.org

913.538.7913



Heart to Heart International Award Recipients to Be Honored May 9

U.S. Army Major General and Locally-Based Physicians Foundation Heralded for Support of Relief Aid Efforts

April 15, 2015 (Lenexa, Kan.) – Heart to Heart International (HHI) today announced the recipients of the organization’s 2015 Heart for Humanity and Power of One awards. The Heart for Humanity Award will be presented to the **American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation**, a long-time partner in the joint *Physicians With Heart* program, the Foundation’s current *Family Medicine Cares International* program in Haiti, as well as a supporter of HHI disaster response efforts. The Power of One Award will honor U.S. Army **Major General Gary Volesky**, Commanding General of the 101st Airborne Division and Fort Campbell, who became commander of Joint Forces Command – Operation United Assistance and the fight against Ebola in West Africa in October.

Major General Volesky and the AAFP Foundation will be honored Saturday, May 9 at the **Compassion Gala**, a dinner and auction event to benefit HHI humanitarian aid services and medical supply distribution, including the organization’s disaster readiness response and Operation Ebola initiative in Liberia. The event will be held at the Gallery Event Space in downtown Kansas City and presented by Bank of Blue Valley, in partnership with the Regnier Family Foundation. Robert Regnier, CEO Bank of Blue Valley, will serve as Honorary Chair, and Carla Duryee, HHI Board Member, is Event Chair.

The **Heart for Humanity Award** is presented to a group, organization or company that exemplifies compassion toward the underserved and victims of disaster by supporting Heart to Heart International through monetary, volunteer and gift-in-kind support. The AAFP Foundation, the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Family Physicians, advances the values of Family Medicine by promoting humanitarian, educational and scientific initiatives that improve the health of all people. The AAFP Foundation has worked side-by-side with HHI for more than 20 years in humanitarian initiatives, providing patient care, medical education and training, service to children, and support for disaster relief. Currently, the AAFP Foundation program, *Family Medicine Cares International*, brings volunteers and resources to improve the lives and health of the people of Haiti.

“Through the years, the AAFP Foundation has helped HHI make a substantial and positive impact in the health of families around the world,” said Jim Mitchum, HHI chief executive officer. “More recently by providing patient care, medical training and volunteer work in Haiti, the AAFP Foundation has worked with us to expand access to healthcare for so many. The AAFP Foundation has shown they truly have a heart for humanity.”

The **Power of One Award** is presented to an individual that exemplifies compassion toward the underserved and victims of crisis or disaster by significantly supporting Heart to Heart International’s mission to provide humanitarian healthcare to those in need. As Commander of the military component of the United States response to the Ebola epidemic in West Africa, Major General Volesky led U.S. troops into every corner of Liberia over the course of five months to build Ebola treatment units, establish field laboratories, and to provide logistical and operational support.

"This mission was more than just getting after Ebola, it was seeing the people of Liberia really return to normal," Volesky commented in a recent news piece. "They had hundreds dying when we arrived, and the people of Liberia didn't have a lot of hope. But once we got there and started showing them we were really there to work, you could see their confidence build."

For information and reservations for the Compassion Gala on May 9, visit hearttoheart.org/compassion-gala.

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About Heart to Heart International

Heart to Heart International is a nonprofit international health organization. Since 1992, HHI has delivered medical aid and supplies worth \$1.3 billion to more than 150 countries, including the United States. HHI responds to crises and natural disasters both domestically and internationally by supplying medical relief and mobilizing volunteers. HHI broadens access to healthcare with medical education opportunities and lab standards training in the U.S. and in Haiti, and also works with U.S. safety-net clinics to increase their capacity by providing medical equipment, supplies and volunteers that are vital to operations. The organization is a Charity Navigator 4-Star charity seven years in a row, a BBB Accredited Charity, and is on the "Philanthropy 400". HHI is also a founding member of the Partnership for Quality Medical Donations (PQMD), and is a member of National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

For more information on programs and ways to get involved, visit hearttoheart.org & find HHI on [Facebook](#).

About the American Academy of Family Physicians Foundation

The AAFP Foundation serves as the philanthropic arm of the American Academy of Family Physicians. Its mission is to advance the values of Family Medicine by promoting humanitarian, educational and scientific initiatives that improve the health of all people. For more information, please visit www.aafpfoundation.org.