



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CHI St. Joseph's Health FATHER Project's Program
Coordinator, Joe Johnson Receives the Nurturing Father's
Program Outstanding Professional of the Year Award**

PARK RAPIDS, MN (October 26, 2017) – CHI St. Joseph's Health FATHER Project Program Coordinator, Joe Johnson recently received The Nurturing Fathers Program Outstanding Professional of the Year award at The Nurturing Fathers Program (NFP) 2017-2018 Summit.

The Nurturing Fathers Program (NFP) Summit was held in Florida on October 21st and 22nd bringing together NFP Master Trainers and Consultant/Trainers to share best practices, innovations, inspirations, and planning for continued success to become the very best, most nurturing fathers that they can be. Transformation was the overarching theme for this biennial conference. Participants shared NFP tools, creative adaptations, theory and practice to educate and illuminate this process of transformation.

"Joe Johnson has been a "star" at these gatherings over the past several years. It was no different this year as he shared his powerful personal journey of transformation into the nurturing fun-loving father and family man that he is today", said NFP Program Author/Trainer, Mark Perlman.

Since launching in 2011, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health FATHER Project has been making a positive impact in the community by providing life-changing support for families. The Project's mission is to help any and all fathers, custodial or non-custodial, or anyone filling in as a father figure (step dads, grandparents, foster parents) learn healthy parenting skills and behaviors, as well as

overcome barriers that have prevented them from providing emotional and financial support for their children. By participating in this voluntary step-by-step, multi-class program, participants learn an array of fathering skills that include healthy disciplinary approaches, parenting and communication styles, and co-parenting skills. Some participants go on to become "citizen fathers," a special achievement for dads who excel in the program and exemplify strong leadership and fathering skills.

Over the past six years, over 375 dads have been enrolled in The FATHER Project and been empowered to overcome the barriers that prevented them from supporting their children economically and emotionally. "By eliminating barriers and providing a variety of services, we have addressed many social issues affecting our community. We continue to help each individual along the path to achieving goals and becoming independent, productive members for their families and communities." said Marlee Morrison, CHI St. Joseph's Health Community Health Director.

"There are precious few successful models for serving rural populations in this way, but I always felt that Joe Johnson was the man who could make this work for the betterment of all involved. The "NFP Professional of the Year" Award is a testament to Joe's efforts and success", said NFP Program Author/Trainer, Mark Perlman.

To learn more about the FATHER Project or to sign up, please contact Joe Johnson at 218.255.2063 or JosephJohnson@catholichealth.net. To make a donation, please contact CHI St. Joseph's Health Foundation at 218.616.3383.

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About CHI St. Joseph's Health

CHI St. Joseph's Health is a 25-bed critical access hospital serving communities in Hubbard, Becker, Cass and Wadena Counties since 1946. In recent years, CHI St. Joseph's Health's award-winning teams received several national honors including: The Joint Commission Top Performer on Key Quality Measures in surgery; Top 100 Critical Access Hospital, HealthStrong; WomenCertified's America's Best Hospitals Women's Choice Award in obstetrics; and the Studer Group Fire Starter Healthcare Organization of the Month among other national, regional and state recognitions.

About CHI

St. Joseph Hospital is part of Catholic Health Initiatives (CHI), a national nonprofit health system based in Englewood, Colorado. The faith-based system operates in 18 states and includes 103 hospitals, as well as long-term care, assisted- and residential living communities; community health services organizations; home health agencies and outpatient facilities and services. In fiscal year 2016, CHI provided more than \$1.1 billion in financial assistance and community benefit. CHI generated operating revenues of \$15.9 billion and has total assets of approximately \$22.7 billion.

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