



American Association for Respiratory Care Announces New Collaboration with The Faces Foundation on National Respiratory Patient Advocacy Award

The collaboration will help identify and honor respiratory care professionals who demonstrate extraordinary compassion and collaboration in patient and family advocacy

Irving, TX (April. 10, 2017)—The American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC), the leading national and international professional association for respiratory care, today announced a collaboration with The FACES Foundation (Family and Caregiver, Education & Support) to identify and honor registered respiratory therapists from across the country who demonstrate excellence in compassionate care for patients and families.

Representatives from AARC and FACES Foundation have developed a national review committee for the National Respiratory Patient Advocacy Award program, which is responsible for selecting three 2017 Award finalists. Registered Respiratory Therapists that work directly with patients in any U.S. healthcare setting are eligible. The award commemorates a vital member of that team: the respiratory therapist. This consummate professional appreciates the “individual” instead of the “patient” and is dedicated to the principal that every breath matters. Nominations come from facilities across the continuum of care where registered respiratory therapists are actively engaged as a champion of patient/family-centered care.

“The respiratory therapists are a vital member of the healthcare team in diagnosing, assessing, treating and educating patients and families with acute and chronic respiratory conditions,” said Timothy Myers, MBA, RRT-NPS, FAARC, Chief Business Officer of the AARC. “We are ecstatic to be partnering with The FACES Foundation to help reveal the incredible stories of these amazing caregivers, and commemorate their commitment to collaborative, compassionate patient and family centered care.”

Nominations are now being accepted through June 30, 2017. The award recipient and the two runner-up candidates will be announced at the 3rd Annual AARC Respiratory Patient Advocacy Summit, where all finalists will be honored on Oct. 3, 2017, in Indianapolis.

“People challenged with respiratory illnesses feel intense gratitude for the health care providers who empower them to breathe easier. The respiratory therapist is a key member of the patient care team. They see the “person” not just the “patient” and are committed to the belief that every person and every breath matters,” said Sharman Lamka, President and Co-Founder of The FACES Foundation. “We are honored to be partnering with the AARC to highlight the importance in communication between patient, family and the respiratory therapist.”

The National Respiratory Patient Advocacy Award program is made possible through the generous support of the AARC Respiratory Patient Advocacy Summit and its generous sponsors. More information about the award and nomination process is available at: [National Patient Advocacy Award](#)

About the American Association for Respiratory Care

Established in 1947, the American Association for Respiratory Care (AARC) is a 501(c)(6) not-for-profit organization of greater than 47,000 respiratory care professionals. The AARC’s Mission and Vision is to be the leading national and international professional association for respiratory care. The AARC will encourage and promote professional excellence, advance the science and practice of respiratory care, and serve as an advocate for patients, their families, the public, the profession and the respiratory therapist.

Visit us at <https://www.aarc.org/> or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)

About the FACES Foundation

The FACES Foundation (Family And Caregiver Education & Support) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization established by Sharman Lamka in 2006 in memory of her husband, Philip C. Lamka. Phil died as a result of complications from an Interstitial Lung Disease (ILD). FACES reflects, acknowledges and advocates for the many ‘faces’ of those living with pulmonary illnesses: the patients, their support network of family, friends and the respiratory therapists who understand that each breath matters.

Visit us at <http://www.thefacesfoundation.org> or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#).

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