

**For Immediate Release**

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**Harwinton Ambulance Association**

Recognized as a "Community Star" in Conjunction with National Rural Health Day 2019  
and

Governor Lamont issues Gubernatorial Proclamation for National Rural Health Day in CT

**Winsted, CT, November 21, 2019** – On the third Thursday of November every year, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health (NOSORH), the member organization for each of the 50 State Offices of Rural Health (SORH), leads National Rural Health Day (NRHD), an annual day of recognition, shining a light on those who serve the vital health needs of the estimated 57 million people living in rural America.

A gubernatorial proclamation has been issued by Governor Lamont's office announcing November 21, 2019 as National Rural Health Day in Connecticut.

SORHs, including The Connecticut Office of Rural Health, provide support to rural hospitals, clinics, and first responders in several ways including technical assistance, funding that supports workforce development, population health management, quality improvement initiatives, and more.

In 2015, NOSORH invited its members to nominate hospital and emergency first responder teams, community health, and volunteer service heroes on the front lines of rural health who were making a positive impact on rural lives. Soon after the stories started coming, the book of Community Stars has been published on NRHD.

Harwinton Ambulance Association was nominated and their story was selected to appear in the 2019 edition that will be available on the <https://www.PowerofRural.org> website, the official hub for NRHD and the Power of Rural movement, beginning November 21, 2019.

According to Chief Kevin Ferrarotti, the organization's mission statement is "Our Family Helping Yours." Thirty-six years after his father's time as Chief, Kevin is serving a second term in the position leading a 45-member, all-volunteer team, each of them dedicated to saving lives and providing a host of essential services to six communities, with a reach of up to 30,000 people.

Harwinton Ambulance Association provides more than 1,000 hours of discounted and free programs to community members, first responders, and medical professionals each year, from babysitting courses to CPR and Emergency Preparedness Training. The association is a statewide leader in the Stop the Bleed program, with funding from the CT State Office of Rural Health. *Stop the Bleed*, launched by the White House in 2015, is a national awareness campaign and a call to action with an intention to cultivate grassroots efforts that encourage bystanders to become trained and empowered to help in a bleeding emergency before professional help arrives. For rural communities, where EMS may be sparsely located and first responders must cover several miles of land, it's proven to have saved countless lives.

The CT Office of Rural Health congratulates Harwinton Ambulance Association on this well-deserved award, and on their commitment to providing life-saving trainings to rural residents. The Community Star will be awarded to the association in a ceremony on December 4.

For more information about Harwinton Ambulance Association, please visit [www.harwintonems.org](http://www.harwintonems.org)

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