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**Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association Applauds  
Suzanne Pfister, 2010 *Grassroots Advocacy Champion***

Phoenix, Arizona – The American Hospital Association (AHA), in partnership with the Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association (AzHHA) has awarded Suzanne Pfister, Vice President of External Affairs of St. Joseph’s Hospital and Medical Center, with the American Hospital Association *Grassroots Advocacy Champion Award*. As a 2010 Grassroots Champion, Pfister is being recognized for her exceptional leadership in generating grassroots and community activity in support of the hospital mission.

The American Hospital Association *Grassroots Champion Award* was created to recognize those hospital leaders who effectively educate elected officials on how major issues affect a hospital’s vital role in the community, and who have done an exemplary job of broadening the base of community support for a hospital.

“We depend upon strong local voices to help tell the story of hospitals as cornerstones of the communities they serve,” said Rich Umbdenstock, AHA president and CEO. “This award is a small token of our appreciation for their hard work and dedication to improving health and health care in America.”



# Arizona Hospital and Healthcare Association

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“Suzanne has done an exceptional job of advocating for St. Joe’s and its patients,” said John Rivers, AzHHA President and Chief Executive Officer. “Her dedication to addressing key issues and educating legislators has made a real difference in the lives of healthcare patients.”

The award is presented annually to one individual from each state with winners being chosen by the state association. The 2010 honorees will be recognized at a special Breakfast of *Grassroots Champions* at the AHA Annual Membership Meeting on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. Suzanne Pfister is one of 52 individuals honored this year.

## **About the AHA**

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, other providers of care and 37,000 individual members. Founded in 1898, the AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information, visit the AHA Web site at [www.aha.org](http://www.aha.org).

## **About AzHHA**

AzHHA is an organization of hospitals and healthcare systems dedicated to providing leadership on issues affecting the delivery, quality, accessibility and cost-effectiveness of healthcare. For more information, please contact Kristin Davis at [kdavis@azhha.org](mailto:kdavis@azhha.org) or the following phone numbers: (602) 445-4318 (office) or (602) 561-9646 (cell).

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