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2018 Prendergast Child Advocate of the Year: Mike Ellis.

(Fort Myers, Fla. – June 11, 2018) --- Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida has awarded Mike Ellis the 2018 Prendergast Family Child Advocacy Award. Ellis received the award at the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida Annual Pediatric Conference held at Sanibel Harbour Marriot Resort & Spa on June 9.

“Mike Ellis has been a pillar in the community for pediatric health for decades. We are extremely grateful for his contributions and with this award, recognize Mike for his efforts of improving mental health access for the children of SWFL”, says Dr. Emad Salman, Regional Medical Officer, Golisano Children’s Services. “His integrated program has changed the lives of many families.”

Mike Ellis is the President/CEO of Healthcare Network of Southwest Florida (2013). Prior to coming to Healthcare Network he was Executive Director of the Golisano Children’s Hospital. He also held senior staff positions at the Family Health Centers of SW Florida, University Hospital at the University of Florida in Jacksonville, Nemours Children’s Hospital in Jacksonville, and St. Elizabeth Medical Center in Dayton, Ohio.

Mike is a former Lee Memorial Health System Board of Director, and currently a Commissioner on the Lee County Mosquito Board of Commissioners.

Every year, in recognition of Child Abuse Prevention Month, Golisano Children’s Hospital and the Prendergast Family Endowment Fund host a lecture on child abuse and recognize a special individual in the community for their commitment to prevention and advocacy.

In 2005, Mrs. Eileen Prendergast and her family gave the community “a million reasons” to help children in Southwest Florida when they made a \$1 million gift to establish the Prendergast Endowment Fund for the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida’s Child Advocacy Program and the annual Prendergast Child Advocate of the Year recognition. The program features free parenting classes taught in partnership with the Children’s Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida to prevent child abuse. These classes have touched the lives of more than 7,500 parents in the Southwest Florida region.

Photo attached: L to R: Mike Ellis, Dr. Emad Salman

About Golisano Children’s Hospital

Established in 1994, Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida has been named a “Top Hospital” by The Leapfrog Group for the past two years. It is the only recognized children’s hospital between Tampa and Miami. Lee Health opened the new 128-bed Golisano Children’s Hospital in May 2017, relocating the children’s hospital from the adjacent HealthPark Medical Center. It includes comprehensive pediatric services including a 24-hour pediatric emergency department, hematology-oncology unit, milk lab, Regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center, and Level II and Level III NICU with 64 private rooms. For more information, visit GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org