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**“Blow the Whistle on Asthma” Event Set  
at Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida**

*Community event aims to inform and educate about the treatment of pediatric asthma*

(Fort Myers, Fla. – May 16, 2018) --- Join Lee Health’s Pediatric Asthma team May 22 for the inaugural “Blow the Whistle on Asthma” event. This community event takes place 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the hallway connecting Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida and HealthPark Medical Center. The event will feature demonstrations about proper asthma care along with interactive, educational games for individuals diagnosed with asthma or concerned about asthma, and their caregivers.

“The more patients and their families understand about the disease, what triggers asthma attacks and how to properly manage medications, the less likely they are to need hospitalization,” said Teresa Summe, asthma coordinator, Lee Health. “Prevention and education are the keys to happier, healthier patients.”

Asthma is a leading cause of hospital visits for children and is typically among the top three reasons for admissions at Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. More than 6 million children in the U.S. have asthma and the numbers increase every year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Since 2014, admissions and readmissions attributed to asthma have significantly decreased at Golisano Children’s Hospital. The children’s hospital has developed an educational program for families of patients who are admitted with asthma-related symptoms that teaches early symptom recognition, triggers and the appropriate use of medications. Upon discharge, every child leaves the hospital with a personalized asthma action plan which is shared with family members, pediatricians and school personnel. Each child is also referred to the Outpatient Asthma Management Program, and a follow-up appointment is scheduled.

For more information, contact [media@leehealth.org](mailto:media@leehealth.org).

**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](http://GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org)*