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Lee Health Hosts Public Celebration to Recognize 25 Years of Saving Lives at Trauma Center
Event to Feature Health Screening, Interactive Demonstrations to Prevent Traumatic Injuries

(Fort Myers, Fla. – April 24, 2019) --- Since opening in 1994, Lee Health’s Trauma Center, located within Lee Memorial Hospital, has provided life-saving treatment to tens of thousands of patients who suffered injuries from motor vehicle crashes, slips and falls, playing sports, acts of violence or other traumatic incidents.

In honor of its 25th anniversary, the Lee Health Trauma Center is hosting a community celebration on **Saturday, May 4 at Lee Memorial Hospital**. As the only trauma center located between Miami and Sarasota, the center serves the five-county trauma district of Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties.

Trauma centers offer more specialized care for patients than an ordinary emergency room. They are staffed by highly-trained medical professionals who are experienced in handling the complex medical processes involved with trauma cases. Trauma surgeons stress the importance of the “golden hour,” which is the first hour immediately following a traumatic incident.

“The goal of the trauma center is to save lives and help patients recover as fully as possible to their previous lifestyle, and seeing them within the golden hour greatly improves our chances on both fronts,” Dr. Jose Diaz, Trauma Center Medical Director, said. “Before our center opened 25 years ago patients had to be airlifted out of the area or kept stabilized until a surgeon could arrive; having a local trauma center has drastically improved outcomes and helped patients recover quicker.”

Almost all traumas are preventable, which is why Lee Health will be holding multiple demonstrations during the center’s 25th anniversary celebration. Demonstrations include: fall prevention, drowning prevention, bicycle/pedestrian safety and distracted driving prevention, among others. Children attending the event will also receive free bicycle helmets, while supplies last.

The center has two trauma surgeons on-call 24/7 who can arrive within 30 minutes of being called, and almost all patients arrive within 15 minutes of EMS being alerted of their injury. Lee Health stresses the importance of community awareness when it comes to treating trauma, as many times it is a friend or family member who serves as the first responder until professional help arrives. The health system participates in the national “Stop the Bleed” campaign to bringing important training sessions to community organizations to teach people how to stop bleeding and stabilize a patient until an ambulance appears on the scene.

Details for the event are below if you plan on attending:

What: Lee Health Trauma Center 25th Anniversary

When: Saturday, May 4, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Where: Lee Memorial Hospital, 2776 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers, FL 33901

For more information on the 25th anniversary celebration, please contact Syndi Bultman at 239-343-3797.