Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida Recognized as a "Top Hospital" for Third Straight Year
Only three children's hospitals in the country have achieved this recognition for three consecutive years

(Fort Myers, Fla. – Dec. 4, 2018) --- For the third year in a row, Lee Health's Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida has been named a "Top Children's Hospital" by The Leapfrog Group. Only 13 children's hospitals in the country - three in Florida - earned this prestigious distinction, which highlights each hospital's highest commitment to safety and quality care of children. Only three children's hospitals in the country have ever been recognized by Leapfrog for three consecutive years.

"We are honored to receive this recognition for the third year in a row. Thank you to all of the professionals who work tirelessly to create a safe and comfortable environment for the children and families in our community. We look forward to continuing to provide compassionate and quality health care for years to come," said Larry Antonucci, M.D., MBA, Lee Health President and CEO.

The selection of Top Children's Hospitals is based on the results of the 2018 Leapfrog Hospital Survey. Performance across many areas of hospital care is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including inpatient care management, medication safety, and infections and injuries. The rigorous standards are defined in each year's "[Top Hospital Methodology](#)."

Since moving to its new state-of-the-art facility next to HealthPark Medical Center in 2017, Golisano Children's Hospital has received multiple national accolades. In addition to being honored by Leapfrog for three consecutive years, the hospital was named as the "Most Beautiful Hospital in the U.S." by Soliant, a national health care staffing agency, earlier this year.

"Our hospital was built around the health care needs of the children in our community, and it's an honor to consistently be named among the top children's hospitals in the nation," said Armando Llechu, chief administrative officer, Golisano Children's Services. "Our mission is to keep children as close to their homes as possible, and this endorsement shows that parents can be confident their children are also receiving safe and high-quality care. To earn this prestigious award three years in a row reflects our continued commitment to maintain these high standards."

This announcement comes on the heels of three Lee Health hospitals receiving "A" grades on Leapfrog's Fall 2018 Hospital Safety Grades report card last month. Gulf Coast Medical Center, Cape Coral Hospital and Lee Memorial Hospital all received the highest possible grade. HealthPark Medical Center received a "B" grade, missing the top mark by just .03 points.

The Leapfrog Group is a national nonprofit organization working towards improvement in the quality and safety of American health care. The Leapfrog Hospital Survey collects and transparently reports hospital performance, empowering purchasers to find the highest-value care and giving consumers the lifesaving information they need to make informed decisions. The Leapfrog Hospital Safety Grade, Leapfrog's other main initiative assigns letter grades to hospitals based on their record of patient safety, helping consumers protect themselves and their families from errors, injuries, accidents and infections.

To see the full list of institutions honored as 2018 Top Hospitals, visit www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals.

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. Golisano Children's Hospital is proud to have been named Soliant's 2018 Most Beautiful Hospital in the U.S., a recognition determined by popular vote *For more information, visit* [*GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org*](GolisanoChildrensSWFL.org)