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2019 Prendergast Child Advocate of the Year: Dr. Piedade Silva

(Fort Myers, Fla. – May 6, 2019) --- Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida has awarded Piedade Silva, M.D., a pediatrician with Lee Physician Group (LPG), the 2019 Prendergast Family Child Advocacy Award. This award recognizes her passion and commitment to helping and healing the children of Southwest Florida. Dr. Silva received the award ahead of the Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida Annual Pediatric Conference held at Sanibel Harbour Marriot Resort & Spa on April 13.

“Dr. Silva has been a dedicated advocate for pediatric health and a passionate provider for more than 25 years. We are extremely grateful for her contributions and this award recognizes her tireless work to ensure children receive the best possible care within Lee Health and across our community,” said Dr. Emad Salman, regional medical officer, Golisano Children’s Services.

Recently, Dr. Silva has been instrumental in making Lee Health facilities more accessible to patients with asthma. In February, four LPG primary care clinics became the first pediatric outpatient offices in the state designated platinum-level “Asthma-Friendly” by the Florida Asthma Coalition (FAC). This is the highest level of recognition the coalition awards and highlights outpatient centers that create a safe and healthy environment for patients with asthma.

Last year, the FAC designated Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida as the fourth “Asthma-Friendly” hospital in the state. Dr. Silva also served on the Board of Directors for the Bonita Springs YMCA for several years and was an active member of the Children’s Medical Services cleft palate program.

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: Kris Fay, Chief Administrative Officer, Lee Physician Group; Dr. Piedad Silva; Dr. Emad Salman, Regional Medical Officer, Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida

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 three 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