



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Renowned Nurse Fighting Human Trafficking Honored with 2024 International Ceca Award

Dr. Francine Bono-Neri Recognized at the UN for Her Extraordinary Impact

WASHINGTON, DC May 8, 2024 – Ceca Foundation, in partnership with Nurses With Global Impact (NWGI), is pleased to announce **Dr. Francine Bono-Neri** as recipient of the 2024 International Ceca Award in recognition of compassionate care and excellence in nursing. Dr. Bono-Neri was recognized for a long career as a nurse for over 30 years, but in particular she has devoted the last decade of her life to work as a healthcare provider and advocate for human trafficking victims.

Among many accomplishments, she co-founded Nurses United Against Human Trafficking (NUAHT) and continues to serve as President for the organization, traveling around the globe presenting, training and advocating on the topic of human trafficking. She also serves as a pediatric and Anti-Human Trafficking Consultant for Lynn’s Warriors Advisory Council, a nonprofit based in New York, that is committed to ending human trafficking and sexual exploitation by raising awareness through media and grassroots mobilization, advocacy, education, and policy. Additionally, Dr. Bono-Neri commits significant time to being a policy advocate and helped to draft state legislation for Anti-Human Trafficking Training for healthcare providers, in addition to serving on the American Hospital Association’s Human Trafficking Advisory Council in 2023. She continues to author numerous publications on the topic, teaches in a variety of academic institutions, and, notably, established The Francine Bono-Neri Scholarship Fund to support and promote graduate-level nurses developing clinical expertise and specializing in research dedicated to the prevention and eradication of human trafficking.

“We are humbled to recognize Dr. Bono-Neri’s outstanding work on an international scale. She truly embodies the caregiving spirit through her dedication and admirable efforts on such a difficult issue. But without a doubt, countless lives have been touched by her work,” said Ceca President Nate Hamme. “Ceca is honored to once again join with our partners at NWGI to recognize outstanding caregiving worldwide and extend our mission beyond our operating footprint in America.”

“Words truly cannot convey the amount of gratitude and humility felt for having been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2024 International Ceca Award,” commented Dr. Bono-Neri. “The overwhelming impact it made, and its deep meaning, are still to be wholly comprehended by me, as my feet have yet to touch the ground since that Wednesday evening.”

Dr. Bono-Neri received her BSN from Adelphi University, and later received her MA from New York University and Ph.D. from Molloy College. She started her impactful career in healthcare as an RN in Pediatrics at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, NY, North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, NY, and Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx. She went on to serve in numerous adjunct and faculty teaching roles, and continues to support a new generation of nurses with her wealth of expertise and passion for caregiving and clinical excellence.

“I’m so happy that the Ceca Foundation has joined Nurses With Global Impact, to recognize nurses who are doing extraordinary work and making an impact in global health,” added Deb O’Hara Rusckowski, Founder of NWGI. “We will continue to honor those nurses who elevate the nursing profession through providing quality care in exemplary, often unique, ways. Our partnership with Ceca has only strengthened the caliber level of those we seek to honor.”

Dr. Bono-Neri received the Award, along with a commemorative plaque, in a ceremony held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City, marking the Eighth Annual Celebration of International Nurses Day. The Nurses With Global Impact event recognizes nurses around the world and from different cultures who work toward securing global health and strengthening healthcare systems across the globe.

About Ceca Foundation

Ceca is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Washington, DC, which partners with healthcare communities nationally of all sizes to recognize their exceptional caregivers. Ceca’s mission is to improve the human experience in healthcare by providing a highly affordable, turnkey recognition solution tailored to healthcare providers, using its innovative software, network, managed services, and cash awards. Founded by Matthew and Rosemary Lawlor in 2013, Ceca has publicly recognized more than 50,000 exceptional acts of care and nearly 1,400 caregivers have received a Ceca Award. To date, Ceca has awarded over \$500,000 to deserving caregivers. For more information, [watch a brief video](#) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

About Nurses With Global Impact, Inc.

The mission of Nurses With Global Impact is to connect, support and celebrate the work of nurses everywhere, bringing visibility to nurses doing extraordinary work and their projects that make a global impact on healthcare. Nurses With Global Impact shares the experiences and stories of these exceptional nurses on the web and social media, and sponsors *International Nurses Day* annually to commemorate the birth of nursing’s founder, Florence Nightingale.

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