# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

# Power Up Nursing Announces Five Chrysalis Awards for Innovation in Nurse Well-Being

## The DAISY Foundation, nursing visionary Leanne Meier, Kaiser Permanente Northern California, St. Joseph's Health, and HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center honored for advancing nurse well-being and transforming healthcare workforce culture.

**MIAMI, FL | November 19, 2026** — Power Up Nursing proudly announces the five recipients of the **Chrysalis Awards for Innovation in Nurse Well-Being**, recognizing extraordinary organizations, individuals, and hospitals whose leadership, creativity, and commitment are transforming how healthcare supports, values, and empowers its nursing workforce.

The awards will be presented during the **Chrysalis Innovation Awards Reception on Thursday, November 19, 2026, at the InterContinental Doral in Miami, Florida**, as part of Chrysalis 2026 Miami, Power Up Nursing's national healthcare innovation gathering.

The Chrysalis Awards recognize a fundamental shift in healthcare: nurse well-being is not simply an employee benefit or a wellness initiative. It is an essential foundation for workforce performance, professional satisfaction, patient care excellence, and organizational success.

The five honorees demonstrate that meaningful innovation in nurse well-being takes many forms, from global recognition and lifelong professional advocacy to Caring Science education, nurse-led workplace transformation, and grassroots programs that bring connection, renewal, and joy into the daily experience of nursing.

## Chrysalis Award for Organizational Achievement in Innovation in Nurse Well-Being

## The DAISY Foundation

The **DAISY Foundation** receives the Chrysalis Award for Organizational Achievement in Innovation in Nurse Well-Being in recognition of its extraordinary global contribution to nursing through meaningful recognition of compassionate, exceptional patient care.

Through its internationally recognized DAISY Award programs, the Foundation has elevated the nursing profession by celebrating the clinical excellence, humanity, compassion, and extraordinary contributions nurses bring to patients and families every day.

Its work reinforces a powerful cornerstone of nurse well-being: **the human need to be seen, appreciated, valued, and recognized for making a difference.**

By creating opportunities for hospitals, patients, families, and colleagues to honor exceptional nurses, the DAISY Foundation has helped make meaningful professional recognition an integral part of nursing culture around the world.

The Chrysalis Award recognizes the Foundation's enduring influence on professional pride, belonging, purpose, and emotional well-being, as well as its role in inspiring healthcare organizations to make recognition a central component of their workforce strategies.

## Chrysalis Individual Achievement Award for Innovation in Nurse Well-Being

## Leanne Meier, RN

## Nurse Advocate, International Podcast Host, and Co-Founder of Power Up Nursing

The Chrysalis Individual Achievement Award for Innovation in Nurse Well-Being honors **Leanne Meier**, a nursing visionary whose career spans more than five decades of clinical practice, education, training, technology, and tireless advocacy for nurses.

With 29 years of clinical nursing experience and 31 years of work in education, training, software, and nurse advocacy, Meier has dedicated her professional life to strengthening the nursing community and ensuring nurses have access to the knowledge, connections, and support they need to thrive.

As the founder and host of the internationally award-winning podcast *Once a Nurse, Always a Nurse*, Meier has created a powerful platform for nurses to share experiences, explore challenges, discover resources, and build relationships across geographic and professional boundaries.

For the past two decades, her work has focused on connecting nurses to one another and to resources that support their professional and personal well-being.

Meier is also a co-founder of **Power Up Nursing**, where she has contributed extraordinary personal commitment, time, expertise, and financial resources to advancing the organization's mission.

Her belief that nurses deserve to be cared for as whole human beings has helped shape Power Up Nursing's vision of making nurse well-being a measurable and essential component of healthcare performance.

The Chrysalis Award honors not only her remarkable career but also her steadfast commitment to creating a stronger, healthier, more connected global nursing community.

**Chrysalis Hospital Awards for Innovation in Nurse Well-Being**

Three hospitals and health systems are being recognized for innovative programs, leadership practices, and organizational strategies that improve the experience of being a nurse while strengthening healthcare delivery and workforce performance.

**Large Health System Innovation in Nurse Well-Being Award**

**Kaiser Permanente Northern California | Caring Science Academy**

The Chrysalis Award for Large Health System Innovation in Nurse Well-Being recognizes **Kaiser Permanente Northern California and its Caring Science Academy** for their pioneering commitment to integrating Dr. Jean Watson's Theory of Human Caring into nursing practice, leadership development, and organizational culture. Through innovative education, Caritas coaching, healing circles, and transformational leadership programs, the Academy puts Caring Science within reach of nurses, empowering them to prioritize their own physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being while advancing their professional growth and the quality of patient care.

Under the leadership of **Dr. Rayne Soriano, Regional Senior Director of Professional Excellence, Research, and Innovation; Dr. Jim D'Alfonso, Regional Executive Director of Professional Excellence and the Kaiser Permanente Scholars Academy; and Dr. Janet Sohal, Regional Director of the Nurse Scholars Academy and Magnet**, Kaiser Permanente has helped establish a model in which caring for the nurse is inseparable from caring for the patient. Its commitment to compassion, self-care, and human connection demonstrates how innovation in nurse well-being can transform nursing culture, strengthen professional fulfillment, and inspire healthcare organizations worldwide.

**Mid-Size Hospital Innovation in Nurse Well-Being Award**

**St. Joseph's Health | Trinity Health | Syracuse, New York**

The Chrysalis Award for Mid-Size Hospital Innovation in Nurse Well-Being recognizes **St. Joseph's Health, part of Trinity Health**, for its innovative, nurse-driven **VIBE Hive (Valuing Individuals, Building Engagement)** initiative, transforming nurse well-being from a collection of wellness activities into a vibrant, sustainable culture of connection, recognition, and support. Created by nurses for nurses and the broader healthcare team, the VIBE Hive brings together peer engagement, mindfulness, education, wellness resources, and creative experiences that make caring for caregivers an accessible part of everyday hospital life. From Zumba and community-building activities to its popular mobile Honey Cart delivering treats and appreciation directly to hospital units, VIBE Hive creates meaningful moments of renewal, belonging, and joy throughout the workday.

What distinguishes St. Joseph's is its **grassroots approach to building a culture where nurses can thrive**, recognizing that well-being is not simply an individual responsibility but an organizational commitment. By listening to nurses, encouraging cross-departmental relationships, strengthening recognition, and integrating well-being into the daily work environment, St. Joseph's has created a flexible, replicable model that supports engagement, professional fulfillment, and workforce resilience. Its VIBE Hive demonstrates that meaningful innovation can begin with a simple but powerful idea: **when nurses feel valued, connected, and cared for, the entire healthcare community grows stronger.**

**Small Health System Innovation in Nurse Well-Being Award**

**HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center | Green Bay, Wisconsin**

The Chrysalis Award for Small Health System Innovation in Nurse Well-Being recognizes **HSHS St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center** for its innovative, nurse-led approach to transforming workplace culture through professional shared governance and a commitment to holistic nurse well-being. Through its reinvigorated Professional Governance Council and funding secured from the Green Bay Packers, the hospital created dedicated Serenity and Wellness Rooms, providing nurses and other healthcare professionals with restorative spaces to decompress, recharge, and renew during demanding shifts. Complementing these spaces are monthly wellness challenges, department-level healthy workforce initiatives, and the introduction of the American Nurses Association's Stress First Aid curriculum to strengthen psychological safety and resilience.

What distinguishes HSHS St. Mary's is its **frontline nurse-driven approach to innovation**, empowering nurses to shape the environments and practices that support their own well-being. By integrating healthy workforce priorities into daily operations and partnering with a Nurse Scientist to evaluate measurable outcomes, the hospital is

creating a sustainable, evidence-informed model with the potential to inspire healthcare organizations nationwide. Its work demonstrates that meaningful innovation does not require enormous resources, but rather a culture that listens to nurses, values their humanity, and empowers them to lead change.

**Recognizing Innovation That Changes the Future of Nursing**

“The Chrysalis Awards for Innovation in Nurse Well-Being are being piloted this year, but our vision is to make them even bigger and better in the years ahead, engaging dozens of hospitals that are developing practical, measurable models of nurse well-being with the potential to change the face of healthcare. We are enormously proud of this year's outstanding winners and the innovations they represent, and we wish everyone a healthier, happier, and more successful 2027.”

**Tanya Abreu, MA**
Chief Executive Officer, Power Up Nursing

The Chrysalis Awards reflect Power Up Nursing's commitment to identifying, celebrating, and sharing innovative approaches that improve nurse well-being and create measurable value for healthcare organizations.

Together, the five honorees represent a powerful spectrum of innovation: recognizing extraordinary nursing contributions, connecting and advocating for nurses worldwide, embedding Caring Science into professional practice, empowering nurses to transform their work environments, and creating communities of support that make the experience of being a nurse healthier and more fulfilling.

Their achievements demonstrate that nurse well-being must become an integral part of healthcare leadership, workforce strategy, and organizational performance.

The Chrysalis Awards seek to inspire healthcare organizations everywhere to move beyond traditional approaches to employee wellness and embrace innovation that recognizes nurses as whole human beings whose health, happiness, professional fulfillment, and performance are essential to the future of healthcare.

**Because innovation in nurse well-being is innovation in healthcare itself.**

**About Power Up Nursing**

Founded in 2023, **Power Up Nursing** is a nurse well-being and workforce performance organization dedicated to helping hospitals measure and improve the health, well-being, engagement, and performance of their nursing workforce.

Through innovative education, digital health technologies, personalized well-being interventions, and leadership analytics, Power Up Nursing helps healthcare organizations make nurse well-being visible, measurable, and actionable.

Its mission is to keep nurses at the bedside and in leadership by embedding measurable, technology-enabled well-being into hospital performance strategies.

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