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NEWS

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PHCA/CALM RECOGNIZES THE “BEST OF THE BEST” AMONG PA CAREGIVERS

Winners work in PA nursing homes, personal care homes, assisted living residences

HARRISBURG --- The Pennsylvania Health Care Association (PHCA) and Center for Assisted Living Management (CALM) today named seven professionals from across the state as winners of the “Excellence in Caregiving” award for their dedication and devotion to the commonwealth’s frail elderly and disabled residents.

“For these award winners, caregiving is more than a job. It’s a calling,” said Dr. Stuart Shapiro, President and CEO of PHCA/CALM. “The individuals go above and beyond the call of duty – even on their days off – to ensure that their residents receive compassionate care and are able to live their lives to the fullest degree possible. That may mean spending a day off at the bedside of a dementia resident who is having a bad day, or organizing a birthday dinner with loved ones for a resident whose family and friends live out-of-state.”

All of the PHCA/CALM award winners were nominated by their co-workers and chosen because they showcased outstanding examples of dedicated caregiving and did so in a cooperative spirit through teamwork with others at their facility.

This year’s winners, who received their award last week at PHCA/CALM’s 60th Anniversary convention, hail from five counties across Pennsylvania. They are:

- Dixie Colvin, LPN, Unit Manager at Lancashire Hall in Lancaster County.
- Barry Farias, Environmental Services Director at Golden Living – South Hills in Washington County.
- Tanya James, Medication Tech and Personal Care Aide at Devon Manor in Chester County.
- Sharon McDermond, Nursing Home Administrator at Naamans Creek Country Manor in Delaware County.
- Jeremy Morse, RN at ManorCare Health Services Easton in Northampton County.
- Charles Patterson, CNA at HCR ManorCare – Old Orchard Healthcare Center in Northampton County.

- Pattiann Rohrbach, Campus Executive Director at Country Meadows of Bethlehem in Northampton County.

Caregivers get to know their patients and, more importantly, their specific health-care needs to help them stay healthy, Dr. Shapiro said. They are also the familiar face for elderly residents and others who rely on help for their daily living needs. The winners go beyond their job duties to make the transition to long-term care easier for everyone.

“Caregivers learn so much about the residents, but they also learn about residents’ loved ones, too,” said Dr. Shapiro. “That is what makes these award winners so deserving --- going the extra mile to make certain that the resident is taken care of and the families can feel at ease knowing their loved ones are safe and content.”

PHCA and CALM are statewide advocacy organizations for Pennsylvania’s most vulnerable older residents and their providers of care. Members comprise for-profit, nonprofit and government providers. Together, they represent more than 330 long-term care and senior service providers that care for more than 33,000 elderly and disabled individuals. For more information, call 717-221-1800 or visit www.phca.org or www.calmpa.org.

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