



The Center for Excellence in Assisted Living

CEAL Honors Excellence in Assisted Living

Fifth Anniversary Celebrated with Special Awards Program

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Falls Church, Va. –The Center for Excellence in Assisted Living (CEAL), a unique collaboration of national provider, consumer and advocacy organizations, marks its fifth anniversary this month by honoring five innovative programs that demonstrate excellence in assisted living. “We are enormously proud to honor these creative and talented individuals, organizations and academics whose work improves the quality of life and care of frail seniors” said Dave Kylo, Chair of the Board of Directors of CEAL. CEAL established the *Promoting Excellence in Assisted Living Awards* program this year to recognize practices of excellence in assisted living.

Renowned experts judged the entries on five criteria: advances the assisted living philosophy of care; demonstrated impact and effectiveness; innovation; potential for replication and adaptability by others; and sustainability. The five winners will be formally honored at a reception in Washington, D.C. on October 27th. Anyone interested in attending the reception should contact Penny Anderson for details at panderson@theceal.org. The winners are:

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**DEMENTIA AWARD** ~ Silverado Senior Living of San Juan (Anne Ellett). The “Grand Rounds Behavior Intervention” program helps Silverado provide excellent care for residents with dementia through its multidisciplinary approach to managing challenging behaviors by monthly conference calls with experts and outside behavior specialists. Staff from all 20 Silverado communities can present challenging resident behaviors during the monthly “Grand Rounds.”

Silverado Senior Living, founded in 1996, specializes in care for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or other forms of memory impairment. Silverado provides a full continuum of care through its 20 assisted living communities in California, Utah, Arizona and Texas

**ENVIRONMENT AND DESIGN AWARD** ~ The College of Architecture, Texas A&M University and Arkitex Studio, Inc. (Susan Rodiek). This public/private collaborative developed a three-part DVD educational program, “Access to Nature,” based on research to enhance access to nature and the outdoors for assisted living residents. The DVDs, which incorporate interviews with assisted living residents, providers, staff, and researchers, include a wide variety of case studies, design sketches, diagrams and 3-D animations.

Faculty researchers and students at the College of Architecture at Texas A&M worked with a small local architectural firm, Arkitek Studio, Inc. and educational psychologists, gerontologists and assisted living advisors to develop this multimedia educational series.

**HEALTH CARE AWARD** ~ Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program at the University of Maryland, Baltimore (Reba Cornman). A multidisciplinary team including a pharmacist, nurse practitioner, physician and family advocate developed, "Medication Management in Assisted Living," a free web-based training program on medication management and safety. The program includes a video, power point presentations and case studies, and can be accessed at <http://geri-ed.umaryland.edu>.

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Education and Research Program has been fostering research initiatives across disciplines and training students and health care professionals and caregivers for 22 years.

**PERSON-CENTERED CARE AWARD** ~ The Homestead at Maplewood/Volunteers of America (Ruth Status). The "Culture Change in Assisted Living" project, utilizing nursing theory and evidence-based practices, worked to change the organizational culture at The Homestead at Maplewood to enhance the quality of life for residents, family members and staff. Person-centered care interventions were implemented including: nursing-led meaningful activities; "I" format care plans; and access to complementary and alternative therapies among numerous others.

The Homestead at Maplewood has been providing a full continuum of care on its campus in St. Paul, Minnesota since 1995. Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach their full potential.

**WORKFORCE AWARD** ~ Gateway Senior Living/Nye Senior Services (Amy Fish). "Mission Retention" was created to address and improve staff retention by employing new strategies and practices to help meet the needs and expectations of employees. Some of the inventive strategies utilized include: Amy Fish, Gateway's administrator, hosting a "Dish with Fish" lunch with newly hired staff; an Employee Booster Committee that focuses on the needs of employees; and instituting "Are We Meeting Your Expectations" employee questionnaires among many other practices. Gateway Senior Living opened in 1964 as the first retirement community in Lincoln, Nebraska.

"With more than one million older adults living in assisted living communities across the United States, one key objective of CEAL is to identify and disseminate information that fosters practices, policies and research that promotes excellence in assisted living. The award winners' entries are strong examples of efforts that promote excellence," said Dave Kylo, "and we proudly salute these winners."

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CEAL will host a series of webinars beginning in early 2010. The series will be comprised of the award topic categories and will include detailed information about each award winning practice. Details about the webinar series will be available on CEAL's website in December.

Besides the awards program, CEAL operates a web-based national clearinghouse of information on assisted living, acts as a resource to bring together the diverse stakeholders of assisted living, and encourages research to maintain and improve the quality of assisted living communities and services. More information can be found at www.theceal.org.