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NEWS RELEASE

Olivanne Pannone of BAYADA Home Health Care Named 2017 Pennsylvania Direct Care Worker of the Year

Harrisburg, Pa. (April 4, 2017) – Olivanne “Anne” Pannone, a home health aide with BAYADA Home Health Care in Philadelphia, has been named the 2017 Pennsylvania Direct Care Worker of the year. Pannone was recognized today among nearly 200 of her peers at the first Direct Care Worker Forum in Harrisburg, organized by the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging (PDA).

Pannone has been an aide with BAYADA for more than seven years. According to her supervisor Gaynelle Webster, who nominated her for the award, Pannone goes above and beyond to serve her consumers in their homes. “During both the Papal visit in 2015 and the blizzard of 2016, Anne walked to her consumers’ homes because Philadelphia’s transportation system was essentially shut down. She was willing to care for consumers in addition to her regular caseload, and location was not a concern. She stated, ‘Just send me where I am most needed.’”

“During the height of the storm, Anne saw four consumers and walked 6.6 miles from start to finish that day,” Webster added.

Pannone was selected from a record number of nominees this year – 164. All nominees were invited to the Forum today, all expenses paid, for lunch, training and the presentation of the award by Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne.

“Direct care workers are the backbone of our long-term services and supports system,” said Secretary of Aging Teresa Osborne. “Every day, direct care workers provide critical services to the older Pennsylvanians entrusted to their care, yet they rarely receive the recognition they deserve. Today provided an opportunity for the Wolf Administration to express our gratitude for their work which enables our seniors to age in place in their homes and communities.”

“Today was all about caring for the caregivers,” said PHA CEO Vicki Hoak. “Direct care workers are the unsung heroes of home-based care, who provide vital lifelines to the seniors they serve. They are the eyes and ears who get to know their consumers well and can recognize a change in condition and help to prevent avoidable hospitalizations. With all of the rules, regulations and business operations providers focus on every day, it is important to take this time to recognize our direct care workers.”

Pannone will also be recognized during PHA’s annual conference at Kalahari in the Poconos on May 4. [Click here](#) to view a full list of the 2017 Direct Care Worker Award nominees.

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[Click here](#) to download a photo of Olivanne Pannone.

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