



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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## **Pennsylvania Homecare Association Recognizes 11 Homecare and Hospice Agencies Statewide for Best Practices**

*Agencies in 10 counties recognized: Allegheny, Blair, Bradford, Butler, Clearfield, Columbia, Erie, Jefferson, Northampton and Philadelphia*

**Harrisburg, PA (May 27, 2010)** – As Health Care Reform implementation begins and more emphasis is placed on quality-based reimbursement, the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) implemented a Best Practices program to recognize homecare and hospice agencies that have instituted quality improvement efforts.

PHA recently recognized 11 of its member agencies with its first-ever Best Practices in Homecare and Hospice Awards. The awards were presented by the PA Department of Health on May 13 during PHA's Annual Conference and Exposition in Harrisburg.

PHA established the awards to showcase the homecare and hospice industry as a whole for its exceptional, yet often unrecognized work and contributions to the health care continuum. It is estimated that more than 750,000 Pennsylvanians receive homecare and hospice services each year and research shows that homecare presents significant cost savings compared to institutionalized care.

"Homecare and hospice helps keep people out of the hospital and nursing homes; it is cost-effective; and, it's what people want," said Vicki Hoak, PHA Executive Director. "These agencies – with innovative approaches to patient and consumer care – are the unsung heroes of health care because they care for people in their own homes, where they want to be. For that, they deserve to be honored."

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The awards recognized excellence in four categories: Care & Services; Community Outreach & Advocacy; Human Resources Management; and, Operations Management. Among the programs recognized as Best Practices were bereavement camps for grieving children and families; heart failure patient education that reduced the re-hospitalization rate; improved hiring practices that led to increased employee retention rates; and, a support program for family caregivers.

In total, 15 agencies were selected as finalists and among those, four agencies were selected as the overall winners of each category. The evaluation process included a peer review and interviews conducted by state officials and industry experts.

The Best Practices in Homecare and Hospice Awards will be presented each spring during PHA's annual conference. A call for entries will commence in the fall.

**About PHA...** The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide organization of more than 400 homecare and hospice providers. PHA members provide quality care and serve as advocates for their patients and clients on a variety of healthcare related issues. PHA and its members work hard to improve professional standards and ensure access to quality homecare throughout the Commonwealth.

Below is a list of category winners and finalists:

**Category: Care & Services**

**Winner: McKean County VNA and Hospice**

"Reducing Re-hospitalizations"

Bradford, PA

McKean County

**Honorable Mention: Columbia Montour Home Health Services**

"Reducing Re-hospitalization Rates"

Bloomsburg, PA

Columbia County

**Finalists:**

Bayada Nurses

"Pediatric Nurse Training Program"

Corporate Offices, Moorestown, NJ

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Clearfield Hospital Home Health  
"Wound Team to Improve Outcomes"  
Clearfield, PA  
Clearfield County

Columbia Montour Home Hospice  
"Camp Courage"  
Bloomsburg, PA  
Columbia County

**Category: Community Outreach & Advocacy**

**Winner: VNA of Western PA**  
"Family Caregiver Support"  
Butler, PA  
Butler County

**Finalists:**  
Bayada Nurses  
"Legislative Day"  
Philadelphia, PA  
Philadelphia County

Good Samaritan Hospice  
"Camp Good SAM"  
Wexford, PA  
Allegheny County

**Category: Human Resources Management**

**Winner: In Home Solutions/PLUS**  
"Hiring for Retention"  
Brookville, PA  
Jefferson County

Bayada Nurses  
"Associate Leadership Development Program"  
Corporate Offices: Moorestown, NJ

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Home Care Associates  
"Coaching Supervision Model"  
Philadelphia, PA  
Philadelphia County

**Category: Operations Management**

**Winner: Home Nursing Agency**  
"Service Excellence"  
Altoona, PA  
Blair County

**Honorable Mention:** Erie Home Health Services  
"Managed Care Revenue Enhancement"  
Erie, PA  
Erie County

**Finalists:**  
In Home Solutions/PLUS  
"Homecare Risk Management"  
Brookville, PA  
Jefferson County

VNA of St. Luke's  
"Reducing Unprofitable LUPA Episodes in Home Health"  
Bethlehem, PA  
Northampton County

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