



JULY 2022
Caring Community
IOWA CAREGIVERS

Thank You FOR BEING PART OF OUR CARING COMMUNITY!

Dear Caring Community Member,

There's an old saying that "grief shared is half the grief, while joy shared is twice the joy."

Over the past few years, we've lifted up the voices and stories of dedicated direct care workers from across the state, sharing their stories of grief as they cared for the people we love, who were often the only ones in the room as families said a last goodbye to their loved one via an iPad. Each day, they left their own families to be there for the individuals they serve.

Our direct care workers continue to work through the emotional, physical, and psychological aftereffects of the pandemic—even as they continue to show up, day after day, providing the most intimate, compassionate care one can provide another human being.

**THAT'S WHY I'M WRITING YOU TODAY
WITH A FULL HEART—FULL OF JOY AT
THE GENEROSITY OF PEOPLE LIKE YOU.**

Earlier this year, we asked supporters such as you to step up to enable direct care workers from around the state to attend this fall's Iowa CareGivers 26th statewide educational conference, "Winners at Caregiving: Come on Down!", at the FFA Enrichment Center in Ankeny, Iowa. I am delighted to share that you have helped us reach our goal to **provide the conference for free to direct care workers who want to attend.**

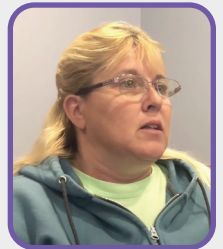
Thanks to our conference sponsors and individual contributors, we exceeded our \$103,000 fundraising goal, making it possible for up to 275 direct care workers and a few family caregivers to attend this wonderful two-day educational, networking, and recognition event at no cost.

You stepped up to recognize the valuable contributions of direct care workers and family caregivers.

Because of you, nearly 300 caregivers from around Iowa will get the opportunity to participate in high-quality educational programs tailored to their needs and led by experts that enhance their caregiving skills in a relaxed, friendly, fun, and supportive atmosphere.

Because of you, attendees will have the chance to connect and network with other DCWs and family caregivers from across the state and take part in an appreciation reception.

"When we come to these conferences, you feel like... I don't know how much more I can take of this and then after the classes, you're pumped and ready to get back in it and go! It helps and the support IC provides is just tremendous...Iowa CareGivers is one of the best things that can happen to you! You learn a lot and the support gets you pumped! I love it! I look forward to it every year!"



LAVADA MESSERSCHMITT, Home Care Aide,
Keokuk County Public Health

Because of you, these DCWs will return to their jobs, their families, and their communities reenergized, inspired, and ready to serve those in their charge.

In closing, I'll quote another well-known, wise saying: "Never underestimate **the power of a small group of committed people to change the world.** In fact, it is the only thing that ever has."

We can't thank you enough for your commitment to our direct care workforce, family caregivers, and to Iowa CareGivers!

My best,



Di Findley, Executive Director



"Caring is What We Do Best"...Iowa CareGivers conference is a great place for you to feel appreciated, and supported with awesome education... of which impacts me to be the best I can in my profession."

CAROLYN ARMSTRONG,
Buena Vista County Public Health & Homecare

A special thanks GOES OUT TO OUR \$10,000 LEVEL "JACKPOT" SPONSORS:

CARESOURCE

CareSource is the proud jackpot sponsor of the 2022 Iowa CareGivers conference because we value the incredible work that this organization has been doing in Iowa. Social Determinants of Health are an important aspect of the CareSource mission and we are passionate about improving the lives of our members and the caregivers or direct service workers that support them. We are beyond grateful for the opportunity to work with Iowa CareGivers and we look forward to the continued collaboration for many years to come.

DES MOINES AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

DMACC has chosen to sponsor the 2022 Iowa CareGivers Conference to recognize and highlight the valuable work these women and men perform in our communities each day and to also highlight the important issues facing this profession. DMACC's vision is to improve quality of life and support our communities. Nowhere is this more crucial than among Iowa CareGivers.

PRINCIPAL FOUNDATION

Principal® Foundation exists to foster a world where financial security is accessible to all. We are proud to support Iowa CareGivers in their mission to enhance the care and support of Iowans.

**To make a contribution online or
by check, visit: <http://bit.ly/3dlxyjJ>**

P.S. Every day, **Iowa CareGivers is fighting for the compassionate direct care workers on the front lines of the pandemic and the moms, dads and other loved ones they are providing care and support for.** Join us in this fight by donating to Iowa CareGivers. Your gift is tax deductible and will help connect these healthcare heroes to the resources they need, so they can keep caring for our loved ones. **THANK YOU!**