

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Date: September 7, 2011

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Two Local Direct Care Professionals Receive Iowa CareGivers Association Awards

Two Direct Care Professionals and Osage residents were recognized by the Iowa CareGivers Association (ICA) during its annual conference on August 29th in West Des Moines.

Becky Johnson, Home Health Aide, Mitchell County Home Health Care/Public Health received the Iowa CareGivers Association 2011 Leadership Award. Johnson has 10 years' home health experience and has worked in her chosen field of direct care for a total of 30 years.

The Leadership Award is presented to a direct care worker who not only exhibits caregiving skill, professionalism, and the ability to serve as a role model, foster teamwork, empower co-workers, and show compassion for their work, but also serves as a representative for the direct care profession outside the workplace.

"Becky has demonstrated great leadership within her profession when she was selected to serve on a state direct care professional education review committee; featured in a Des Moines Register article with a client that helped to raise the public's awareness about both the rewards and challenges of the work; and traveled to Washington, D.C. to participate in the Elder Care Workforce Coalition and called upon her representatives in Congress. We are very proud of Becky and all she has done since she graduated from the ICA Leadership Program," said Di Findley, Executive Director, Iowa CareGivers Association.

Also honored was Caroline Masee who received the Margaret Swanson Legacy in Giving Award. She was honored for the 38 years she has worked in her chosen profession as a Certified Nursing Assistant. She provides care and support to persons with Alzheimer's Disease at the Manly Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.

"This award is important, said Findley, because it counters the perception by some that this isn't a profession that anyone would choose as a career. That simply isn't true. Caroline and many like her should not be viewed as entry level workers in entry level jobs."

The Iowa CareGivers Association is an organization that exists to provide leadership, mentoring, continuing education, recognition, and advocacy for direct care workers. These individuals provide hands on, personal care and support for children and adults of all ages in the homes of persons served, nursing homes, hospitals, assisted living communities, hospices, adult day centers, residential facilities, pre-vocational and supportive employment settings, and other environments.

The Iowa CareGivers Association's mission is to enhance the quality of care for all Iowans by providing education, recognition, advocacy, and research in support of direct care workers. Direct care workers are the largest sector of Iowa's workforce; however, Iowa has a need for 12,000 new direct care workers between the years 2008-2018.

For more information about the Iowa CareGivers Association, visit www.iowacaregivers.org.

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