

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Kerry Park, 401-207-4502
kpark@trmcomm.com

Rhode Island Health Care Association Awards Five in Long Term Care for Distinguished Service

October 11, 2011, Warwick, RI – Five long term care employees were honored with a 2011 Rhode Island Health Care Association (RIHCA) Distinguished Service Award at the association's annual Trade Show and Awards Luncheon recently. The RIHCA Service Awards were initiated ten years ago to showcase and honor the talents and dedication of volunteers and professionals working in Rhode Island's skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities.

- Marianna Macdonald, the Director of Nursing at Forest Farm Health Care Center in Middletown, won the Long Term Care Nurse of the Year award. She was nominated by her colleagues at Forest Farm who touted her leadership skills, extensive service to long term care and compassion toward the facility's residents. Macdonald has worked at Forest Farm since 1996 and is a resident of Newport.
- Kelly Cookson of Scallop Shell Nursing and Rehabilitation Center was named 2011 Social Worker of the Year. Cookson, a resident of Charlestown, is the center's admissions director as well as a social worker. She is currently pursuing her nursing degree to help facilitate care planning and communication with residents, families and discharge planners.
- Indira Hernandez of Elmhurst Extended Care was presented with the RIHCA Distinguished C.N.A. award for her service and dedication to Elmhurst residents. A certified nursing assistant/care partner at the Providence facility, Hernandez serves on several Elmhurst committees. She is a resident of Providence.
- Janet Somerville, also of Elmhurst Extended Care, received the Therapy Resources Management Spirit Award. The Spirit award recognizes an individual in long term care with extraordinary energy, exuberance and dedication to their profession. According to

her peers, Somerville epitomizes the concept of the Spirit award. She is a Cranston resident and a care partner/secretary at the 194-bed facility.

- John Gage, Chief Operating Officer of Health Concepts Ltd., was awarded the 2011 RIHCA Chair's Award from RIHCA Chairperson, Joan Woods. The Chair's Award recognizes an individual chosen by the association's chair, who has made significant contributions to the long term care community. Gage, a past president of the Rhode Island Health Care Association, has been actively involved with the association, as well as the American College of Health Care Administrators Rhode Island chapter, for more than a decade. He is a long term care administration educator and a resident of Pawtuxet Village.

About RIHCA:

Established in 1972, Rhode Island Health Care Association (RIHCA) is a non-profit organization focused on providing accessible, quality health care to Rhode Islanders. RIHCA is comprised of approximately three-quarters of Rhode Island's skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities. Today, RIHCA facilities care for over 7,000 people each year, in every Rhode Island community. The primary goal of every RIHCA member is to provide each resident with the highest quality of care and life possible.

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