Our 2006 Winners

Life Care Centers of America bestowed its two highest awards for excellence in an array of presentations Monday evening – the Chairman's Award to Kimberly Smith, executive director of Life Care Center of New Port Richey, Florida, and the Carl W. Campbell Wind Beneath My Wings Award for the company-wide volunteer of the year to RJ Goff, who donates his time and talent to Life Care Center of Orange Park, Florida.

The recognitions are a highlight of Life Care's annual management meeting now under way. Smith has worked to set her facility apart as a benchmark for customer service. Her center has a high Medicare average daily census, promotes fiscal soundness with a strong operating margin, fosters an effective rehabilitation team, and encourages an environment filled with team spirit and laughter. Life Care Center of New Port Richey demonstrates its leadership by having the 2006 Division Director of Nursing award winner and the 2006 division Whatever It Takes And Then Some winner.

Goff has volunteered at Life Care Center of Orange Park since 1997. He makes woodcraft items, including birdhouses for residents to paint and decorate. He brings in antiques, such as a butter churn, iron and syrup skimmer, to stimulate residents' memories and to encourage them to reminisce. He served as the grill chef for the facility's Father's Day cookout, preparing hamburgers for residents and their sons. His award was presented by Carl Campbell, the man for whom it is named and a founder of Life Care.

Other volunteer winners were Beth Reale, Company-Wide Youth Volunteer of the Year, from Life Care Center of the South Shore, Massachusetts, and the Wheelchair Square Dancers from Life Care Center of New Market, Virginia.

Facility of the Year honors went to Life Care Center of Elizabethton, Tennessee, Karen Turner, senior executive director, Eastern Division; Life Care Center of Osawatomie, Kansas, Lisa Kolman, executive director, Heartland Division; Life Care Center of Hilo, Hawaii, Fred Horwitz, senior executive director, Mountain States Division; Rivergate Terrace, Riverview Michigan, John Polturanus, executive director, Northeast Division; Life Care Center of Bothell, Washington, Erin Doss, executive director, Northwest Division; Life Care Center of Port St. Lucie, Florida, Alison Graziani, executive director, Southeast Division; and La Habra Convalescent Hospital, La Habra, California, Southwest Division.

Life Care at Home and Affinity Hospice of Life presented their ACE awards to Rochelle Allen, agency director, Life Care at Home of West Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and Diane Davis, general manager, Affinity Hospice of Life, Phoenix, Arizona.

Deficiency-free survey awards went to Life Care Center of Brookfield, Missouri, Michael Young; Life Care Center of Las Vegas, Nevada, Clarissa Dewese; Life Care Center of Kona, Hawaii, Ray Marks; The Lane House, Crawfordsville, Indiana, Cynthia Stevens; Mountain View Care Center, Tucson, Arizona, Maria Montion; Life Care Center of Raynham, Massachusetts, Michael Gallagher; Life Care Center of Seneca, Kansas, Travis Hecht; Life Care Center of Stoneham, Massachusetts, Katie Jo Morris; and Valley West Health Care Center, Eugene, Oregon, Marilyn Goodsell.

President's Awards went to Doyle Love, executive director, Life Care Center of East Ridge, Tennessee, and Mae Petty, activities director, Life Care Center of Missionary Ridge, Tennessee, Eastern Division; Sharon Hall, executive director, Mountain View Care Center, Elkhorn City, Kentucky, and Julia Taylor, division director of people development, Heartland Division; Erin Cook, executive director, Life Care Center of Littleton, Colorado, and Ray Marks, executive director, Life Care Center of Kona, Hawaii, Mountain States Division; Allen Batchelder, director of reimbursement, and Julie Klein, executive director, Mayfair Village, Columbus, Ohio, Northeast Division; Linda Svonavec, activities director, Lake Vue Gardens Convalescent Center, Kirkland, Washington, and Jeron Walker, senior executive director, Life Care Center of Port Orchard, Washington, Northwest Division; Nancy McGoldrick, executive director, Life Care Center of Palm Bay, Florida, and Victor Piperata, executive director, Life Care, Center of Ocala, Florida, Southeast Division; Mark Krueger, regional vice president, Palm Region, and Jeni Terwilliger executive director, Life Care Center of Paradise Valley, Nevada, Southwest Division; Carol Pritchett, executive director, Garden Terrace Alzheimer's Center of Excellence, Houston, Texas, Garden Terrace Associates.

The Division Support Award was received by Janice Manchess, divisional secretary, Heartland Division.

We congratulate them one and all for their commitment to excellence in serving our residents and in support of our associates.

--Beecher Hunter