

National Association of Health Care Assistants

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National Fundraiser Improving Quality in Long Term Care

Joplin, MO (November 24, 2009)—The National Association of Health Care Assistants (NAHCA) will launch their 1st annual premier fundraising event, “Stepping Up for Quality”, February 1, 2010. The nationwide walkathon will benefit certified nursing assistants and caregivers across the country by providing continuing education and allowing for professional development. It is the mission of NAHCA to elevate caregivers through recognition, education and empowerment. “It is our goal that nursing assistants across the country will embrace this cause so that they are empowered to provide the best quality care for our nation’s elders,” Lesley Collins, NAHCA Director of Strategic Initiatives.

Residents at one NAHCA facility, Pinecrest Medical Care Facility, Powers, Michigan are joining their caregivers in raising funds which will go to educate nursing assistants and provide scholarship opportunities. One of those residents, retired nurse Dolla Crnich said, “As a registered nurse for over 50 years I know the challenges in patient care. If by walking in the NACHA walkathon I can contribute just a little to make a Certified Nurse Aide’s job more productive, then I am still contributing to the health care profession.”

The walkathon will run throughout the month of February and participants will monitor their steps while in the work place using a pedometer provided by NAHCA. “Stepping Up for Quality” registration information can be found by visiting the NAHCA website, <http://www.nahcacaes.org/sufq.htm>.

NAHCA has worked closely with state and national health care associations to recognize the valuable service of their 30,000+ members and other direct caregivers and improve the quality of healthcare in long term care facilities. Lisa Cantrell and Lori Porter, NAHCA co-founders, have bridged the gap between caregivers and facilities by promoting employee recognition, continued education and staff motivation.



Pinecrest resident walkers--Caroline "Dolla" Crnich (left), Hazel Rochon (right), and Lacey the therapy dog who will lead the NAHCA walkathon.

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