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NEWS RELEASE

Pennsylvania Homecare Association, Department of Aging Recognize Outstanding Direct Care Workers During National Homecare and Hospice Month

Statewide, Regional Winners Celebrated for Exceptional Care

Harrisburg, Pa. (November 17, 2021) – Today, the Pennsylvania Homecare Association (PHA) and the Pennsylvania Department of Aging recognized four direct care workers for their exceptional service. PHA partners with the Department of Aging each year to recognize excellence in home-based care. This year, nearly 200 caregivers were nominated from across the Commonwealth.

Joshua Finch, MedStaffers, Wayne County, is the 2021 Vick Hoak Direct Care Worker of the Year, the statewide award named after PHA's long-time former CEO. Jwanita Hutcherson, Care at Home, Allegheny County, Marilyn Mack, Cole Manor Homemakers, Potter County, and Liz James, BAYADA Home Health Care, Philadelphia County, are this year's regional winners. Each winner receives a monetary gift, a certificate from the Department of Aging, and a letter of commendation from Secretary Torres. During the virtual awards ceremony, PHA also recognized more than 20 direct care workers with 10+ years of service.

The DCW Awards program is typically held as an in-person event, however, this year's celebration was virtual, due to ongoing concerns surrounding COVID-19. The timing of this year's unique celebration couldn't be better, as November is National Homecare and Hospice month. Each November, PHA and industry advocates highlight and celebrate home and community-based service providers who make it possible for millions of Pennsylvanians to receive care in the comfort and safety of their own homes. This year, we are particularly focused on the [caregiver workforce crisis](#) and the need for additional supports and funding for direct care workers and providers.

“Throughout Pennsylvania, the lives of our most vulnerable citizens are improved every day by the compassion, care, and commitment shown by direct care workers,” said Teri Henning, CEO of Pennsylvania Homecare Association. “This program helps to increase awareness about the life-sustaining work that they perform every day to keep the most vulnerable among us safe, healthy, and happy at home, where they want to be. Direct care workers make an enormous impact in our communities, and this awards program is just one way we honor their dedication.”

About PHA... The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide membership organization of more than 700 homecare, home health and hospice providers. PHA members provide quality care and serve as advocates for their patients and clients on a variety of healthcare related issues. PHA and its members work to improve professional standards and ensure access to quality homecare throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit www.pahomecare.org.

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