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NEWS RELEASE

Pennsylvania Homecare Association Recognizes Outstanding Direct Care Workers During National Homecare and Hospice Month

Statewide, Regional Winners Celebrated for Exceptional Service

Harrisburg, Pa. (November 6, 2020) – 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.

Rickie Dell, a homemaker aide with Sivitz Jewish Hospice in Allegheny County, was named the 2020 Vicki Hoak Direct Caregiver of the Year, the statewide award named after PHA's long-time former CEO. Cheryl Bayless (Caring Mission Homecare, Washington County), Eva Costantino (CareGivers America, Susquehanna County), and Abigail Baward (Waverly Care Associates, Montgomery County) were also recognized as this year's regional award recipients. During the virtual awards ceremony, PHA also recognized over 30 homemaker aides with 10-plus years of service.

The DCW Awards event is typically held in March, however this year's celebration had to be delayed, due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. In October, PHA recognized this year's award recipients with surprise celebrations at the caregivers' agencies. A video showing these celebrations can be found [here](#).

The timing of this year's unique celebration couldn't be better, as November is National Homecare and Hospice month. Each year, PHA uses this month to advocate and celebrate home and community-based service providers who make it possible for millions of Pennsylvanians to receive care from the comfort and safety of their own homes.

"The invaluable role of direct care workers has become even more apparent this year. The caregivers nominated for this year's Direct Care Worker of the Year Award have remained dedicated and committed to serving their consumers despite the uncertainties and challenges presented by COVID-19," said PHA CEO Teri Henning. "Now, more than ever, these caregivers deserve support, recognition and celebration for the services they provide to their consumers and their communities."

About PHA... The Pennsylvania Homecare Association is a statewide membership organization of more than 700 homemaker, 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 homemaker throughout the Commonwealth. To learn more, visit www.pahomecare.org.

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