



For Immediate Release

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**LOCAL CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANTS ARE FIRST TO GRADUATE
FROM CAREER DEVELOPMENT COURSE**

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – Seven certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) from the St. Johnsville Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in St. Johnsville, New York recently graduated from the Foundation for Quality Care’s Geriatric Nursing Assistant Career Development Program (GNACD) after completing 27 hours of specialized training in geriatric care. All of the graduating CNAs received increases in their compensation, new job titles and a graduation certificate from the Foundation for Quality Care and Lifeworks, Inc.

GNACD operates throughout New York State to improve recruitment, retention and skill development of Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) working in long-term care facilities. The program staff supports long term care employers, encouraging them to institutionalize career ladders for CNAs and is also working to develop an industry-recognized advanced credential for CNAs. The GNACD program is operated by the Foundation for Quality Care, which is the research and education affiliate of the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA).

This grant-funded program will provide training to approximately 72 nurse staff developers and 360 CNAs over a three-year period. The GNACD recruitment component offers regional CNA recruitment and career education events and establishes working relationships between long term care employers and their regional workforce boards. This program is funded by the partnering facilities and a generous grant from the Jacob and Valeria Langeloth Foundation.

Lisa Volk, administrator of St. Johnsville Rehabilitation and Nursing Center stated, “This program has been so successful in our facility that we are taking these high performing CNAs that have recently graduated and assigning them to take the lead on a new project to integrate the use of health information technology in our facility”.

“The GNACD Program is even more critical in these times of staffing shortages, increased quality of care and financial pressures in the long-term care profession,” said Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Foundation for Quality Care. “This program trains the current and most importantly, the next generation of CNAs who care for New York’s most frail populations.”

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CNAs Graduate from Career Development Course 2-2-2

The seven CNAs who graduated from the program are:

Amanda M. Carpenter
Dawn Carpenter
Nichole Dillenbeck
Shannon Franchi
Amanda Potter
Wendy Shaut
Stephanie Timmerman

The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association, a statewide, membership organization of more than 250 licensed nursing facilities. The membership includes individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. NYSHFA members, who care for more than 42,000 New Yorkers, are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of their residents.