

For Immediate Release
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WISNIEWSKI RECEIVES EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AWARD

ALBANY, N.Y. – Melanie Wisniewski, activity senior at ElderWood at Wheatfield in Niagara Falls, NY, has received the 2017 Heart and Hands Award from the New York State Health Facilities Association/New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSHFA/NYSCAL). The award was presented on June 27 at the 2017 Employee Recognition Awards program during the association's annual convention in Verona, NY.

Ms. Wisniewski has worked at ElderWood at Wheatfield for 20 years. She started her career working with dementia residents as a certified nursing assistant. Melanie transitioned to the activity program when the facility opened their Seasons Program for dementia residents. Her role has evolved into the position of Senior Seasons Aide. Melanie has also received ElderWood at Wheatfield's Employee of the Month Award.

"Melanie is a great role model to her co-workers and new staff learning about the Seasons Program. She is constantly trialing fresh ideas to develop innovative programs for our residents," said Shannon Cayea, administrator of ElderWood at Wheatfield. "We are proud that she has been honored with this prestigious award from NYSHFA."

The Employee Recognition Awards honor individuals for their outstanding contributions to skilled nursing facilities. They are awarded in the categories of Registered Nurse of the Year, Licensed Practical Nurse of the Year, Certified Nursing Assistant of the Year and Heart and Hands Award, which is presented to a non-nursing/non-managerial staff member.

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The New York State Health Facilities Association/New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSHFA/NYSCAL) is a member-driven association of providers of long term care services, caring for individuals of all ages in proprietary, not-for-profit, and government-sponsored skilled nursing, post-acute, rehab, adult care and assisted living communities across the state of New York. NYSHFA/NYSCAL is dedicated to assisting its members in achieving excellence in the provision of efficient and effective quality long term care services through leadership, professional development and active involvement in the shaping of public policy.