

For Immediate Release

January 30, 2015

12 NURSES COMPLETE NEW ASSISTED LIVING NURSE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

(ALBANY, N.Y.) – The New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSCAL) is pleased to announce that twelve nurses from western New York area assisted living facilities have completed the Foundation for Quality Care’s first-ever Assisted Living Nurse Leadership Program. This innovative program was designed to enhance the quality of care and quality of life for residents and staff through the development of the nurse’s leadership skills.

The Assisted Living Nurse Leadership Program is part of the Long Term Care Leadership Institute which was developed by the Foundation for Quality Care, a non-profit research and educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Center for Assisted Living. The course covered key topics including effective communication, conflict management and resolution, coach and mentoring skills and person-centered care. The program was funded through an educational grant received from the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Department of Labor Health Workforce Retraining Initiative.

“NYSCAL is pleased to be the first in the state to offer a specialized training program for assisted living nurses,” said Shelley Sabo, Executive Director at the New York State Center for Assisted Living. “This ground breaking program will provide tools and resources for the assisted living nurse in our communities to build upon their current strengths and experiences. “

A second assisted living nurse leadership program will be held in the spring of 2015 for Nassau and Suffolk counties. Please visit www.nyscal.org in the coming months for more information regarding the Assisted Living Nurse Leadership Program.

“We are proud to be able to advance nurse leadership in the State of New York by providing dedicated nurses with the leadership skills to support their residents, family members and staff so that their facilities will achieve greater success and high levels of customer satisfaction,” said Sabo.

The 12 participants who have completed the Assisted Living Nurse Leadership Program are:

Amber Bougard, Resident Care Manager, Elderwood Assisted Living at Cheektowaga, **Cheektowaga**

Aleah Buckley, RN, DON, Women's Christian Association, **Fredonia**

Debra Butts, Resident Care Director, Emeritus at Lakewood, **Lakewood**

Candy Davis, Assistant Director of Personal Care, Brompton Heights, Inc., **Williamsville**

Torino Gasbarre, Resident Care Director, Emeritus at Bassett Park Manor, **Williamsville**

Bridget Keenan, Resident Care Director/Case Manager, Grande Vie Senior Living Community, **Penfield**

Krystal Morlock, RN, Resident Care Manager, Elderwood Assisted Living at Hamburg, **Hamburg**

Christine O'Connor, RN - Resident Care Manager, Elderwood Assisted Living at Wheatfield, **Niagara Falls**

Stacey Pillath, Director of Nursing, Absolut Care at Orchard Brooke, LLC, **Orchard Park**

Judith Rodriguez, RN, Assistant Administrator, Glenwell, **Cheektowaga**

Patricia Suranyi, LPN - Director of Personal Care, Orchard Heights, Inc., **Orchard Park**

Renee Taylor, LPN, Administrator, Orchard Grove Residences, **Jamestown**

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The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA)/New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSCAL), a statewide membership organization of more than 300 licensed skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. The membership is diversified and represents individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. Members take care of more than 51,000 ill, aged and infirm New Yorkers. Members of NYSHFA/NYSCAL are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of all residents.

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For more information, press only:

Joanne O'Connor

518-462-4800, ext. 23

joconnor@nyshfa.org