



For Immediate Release May 9, 2016 Contact: Richard S. Patterson (518) 462-4800 Ext. 19

## PIACENTINO AWARDED SCHOLARSHIP

VERONA, NY – Patricia Piacentino, a licensed practical nurse at East Neck Nursing & Rehab Center in West Babylon, NY has received a 2016 James D. Durante/Ruth E. Stafford Nurse Scholarship from the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA). The award from the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA) was presented on May 5th at the 2016 Scholarship Awards program during the association's annual Nurse Leadership Conference in Verona, NY.

Ms. Piacentino is a resident of King Park, NY.

The James D. Durante/Ruth E. Stafford Nurse Scholarship is granted to nursing students who are currently advancing their skills and knowledge in the nursing profession and are dedicated to providing high quality care to residents of long-term healthcare facilities. The scholarship is administered by the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc., a non-profit educational and research foundation affiliated with NYSHFA.

"The need for qualified nursing staff in New York State is more critical than ever," said Richard J. Herrick, President and CEO of NYSHFA. "This scholarship was established to assist nurses in their education. It is vitally important to provide support to encourage individuals to pursue a rewarding career in nursing."

"Patricia is a dedicated employee who strives to meet the needs of both our staff and residents," said Mel Hitt, administrator of East Neck Nursing & Rehab Center. "Her dedication, skills and compassion will serve her well as a nurse in the long term care setting."

-30-

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 50,000 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.