

For Immediate Release
May 12, 2023

Contact: Lisa Volk, Director, Clinical & Quality Services
(518) 462-4800 Ext. 15
lvolk@nyshfa.org

**RIDGEFIELD OPERATION FOR ANIMAL RESCUE RECEIVES
VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

ALBANY, N.Y. – Ridgefield Operation for Animal Rescue (ROAR) has received the 2023 Group Volunteer of the Year Award for their volunteer service at Waterview Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare in Purdys, NY. The award was presented on May 10th at the 2023 NYSHFA | NYSCAL Awards Banquet during the Association’s annual conference in Verona, NY.

Members of ROAR Therapy Dog Program have volunteered at Waterview Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare for the past year. They bring their therapy dogs to the facility every other week to visit with the residents. The dogs are certified and fully trained to sit quietly so the residents can pet them. The residents greatly benefit from the presence of these pet volunteers. They are happier and more determined to participate in activities on the days the dogs visit. While it may be somewhat difficult to quantify the benefits of these volunteers with hard scientific facts, the magical interaction and moments that are made possible between animals and humans are unmistakable.

“These volunteers’ commitment and dedication to our residents is greatly appreciated,” said Joe Jozefovic, administrator of Waterview Hills Rehabilitation & Healthcare. “Their volunteerism is truly exemplary and deserving of this prestigious award from NYSHFA | NYSCAL.”

NYSHFA’s Volunteer of the Year Awards Program recognizes outstanding volunteers serving in skilled nursing facilities.

Winners received an engraved obelisk and were invited to attend the NYSHFA | NYSCAL annual conference.

-30-

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.