

*Fall 2013 Direct Care Workers Conference Presents:*

## *Answering the Call for Excellence Award*

### *Essay Contest Instructions*



#### **What is the “Answering the Call for Excellence” Award?**

There are many roles direct care workers have in providing care to people of all ages who have disabilities or a chronic illness and need their assistance. Direct care workers are a lifeline for those they serve, as well as families and friends struggling to provide quality care. Excellence is a requirement of direct care workers in helping older adults manage the challenges they face. With acknowledgement and respect to the critical role of the direct care workers, Care for Elders is proud to present the “Answering the Call for Excellence” Award at the Fall 2013 Direct Care Workers Conference on Monday, August 12, 2013.

#### **Who is eligible for the “Answering the Call for Excellence” Award?**

This award is intended to give recognition and reward to outstanding direct care workers who best describe and exemplify what excellence in the direct care profession means. Certified Nurse’s Aide, Activity Assistant, Home Health Aide, Respite Aide, and Personal Care Aide are common titles for individuals eligible to apply for this award. Other titles include homemaker/ companions, receptionists, greeters, and paid and unpaid workers who assist older adults.

Professional staff (i.e., nurses, social workers) and business owners (regardless of the degree of hands-on care they provide) are not eligible for the “Answering the Call for Excellence” Award.

#### **What will the winner of the “Answering the Call for Excellence” Award receive?**

Two award winners will be selected for recognition. The award winners will each receive a plaque and \$200. The awards will be presented during the luncheon at the Fall 2013 Direct Care Workers Conference (Monday,

August 12, 2013). **All applicants will be recognized for their achievement at the conference, so it is imperative that applicants be present at the conference.**

**What are the criteria for the “Answering the Call for Excellence” Award?**

A **500-word (maximum) essay** is to be submitted by the direct care worker him or herself. Essays should be double spaced and be written in a 12 point font size keeping margins at one inch. Essays must answer the question: **What makes a direct care worker excellent?** In your own words, express what being excellent in your profession means to you. Essays must provide examples of how the individual’s work displays excellence contributing to improving the quality of life of older adults and their families. In addition, essays must include, but are not limited to:

- Describe a role model for direct care workers.
- What do you want people to know about the service you provide every day?
- Why do you value being a direct care worker?

**Please include the following information on your essay:**

- Full name
- Title
- Place of Employment
- Phone Number
- Email Address

**When is the deadline to submit your essay?**

All essays must be received by **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, July 31, 2013.**

**More questions?**

Please feel free to call Elizabeth DeLozier at 713.685.2816.

**Submit essays to:**

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