



## **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire Honors Excellence in Long-Term Care**

LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire is pleased to announce the recipients of its annual Standing Ovation Awards held on April 8 in South Portland, Maine. The six award categories were the Benjamin G. Elder Memorial Award for Excellence in Service for Maine and New Hampshire, the Trustee of the Year Award, the Excellence in Leadership Award, the Innovation of the Year Award, and the Community Service Award.

The Benjamin G. Elder Memorial Award for Excellence in Service is given to recognize the extraordinary efforts of front line staff whose actions or behaviors demonstrate exemplary service, commitment and caring.

Jody Ryan received the Benjamin G. Elder Memorial Award for Excellence in Service for Maine. Ryan is the Resident Service Coordinator at Bayview Heights, Volunteers of America's 60 unit senior housing complex in Portland, Maine. She has served in this position for four years.

"Jody exemplifies integrity, compassion and professionalism," said Carmen Daigle, Resident Services Coordinator Program Manager. "In the community, she goes out of her way to help people in need by networking clients to the appropriate organizations for services, welcoming new clients into the community, and staying abreast of any changes in the services arena that will impact those clients she serves."

Rebecca Cole received the Benjamin G. Elder Memorial Award for Excellence in Service for New Hampshire. Cole is a Medication Nursing Assistant at Kendal at Hanover where she works with residents who need memory support.

“Becky has endless patience and perseverance and the ability to comfort and aide our most challenging residents, said Diana Cox, Director of Resident Healthcare Services. “Many of those residents call her by name and her co-workers say that her love is universal and unconditional - on the good days but especially on the bad.”

The Trustee of the Year Award is presented to an exceptional member of the governing board of a member organization based on criteria such as service to the board and the organization which is beyond the call of duty and evidence of personal preparation to enhance enlightened governance.

Janet Bamberg was recognized with the Trustee of the Year Award. Bamberg has been a member of the Birch Hill Terrace, in Manchester, NH, Board of Trustees since 2006 and has served tirelessly as Chairperson since 2007.

“Janet was a lead contributor in securing an anonymous charitable contribution that allowed Birch Hill Terrace to enhance services and amenities and begin the development of a cottage community for seniors on our campus,” said Gary Zabierek, President and CEO. “The most recent accomplishments under her leadership are the opening of a new state-of-the-art memory care community and the expansion of Birch Hill Terrace’s philanthropic mission with the addition of a Development Department.”

The Excellence in Leadership Award honors an individual who embodies leadership and effectiveness in his or her organization while also championing the need for a vibrant and collaborative not-for-profit long-term care community.

Angie Hunt was recognized with the Excellence in Leadership Award. Hunt is the Chief Operating Officer at The Cedars in Portland, Maine, where she has worked for the past 15 years.

“Angie can’t see a need in the senior community and not look for a way to meet it – even if that means creating and launching a brand-new program,” said Katharine O’Neill, Director of The Atrium at The Cedars.

During Hunt’s time at The Cedars she has led the organization in the creation of innovative programs, collaborations and partnerships. She has advocated for seniors and long-term care providers at State level, and she has established a bottom-up, all-inclusive workplace culture at The Cedars that embraces the direct care staff.

RiverWoods, in Exeter, NH, received both the Innovation of the Year Award and the Community Service Award. The RiverWoods Licensed Nursing Assistant Career Ladder Program was recognized for its innovation while the RiverWoods Gala's community service in raising over \$100,000 for The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Exeter was also acknowledged.

The RiverWoods LNA Career Ladder Program provides an opportunity for LNAs to grow professionally in their role, become competent and skilled leaders within their team, and allows for growth within the nursing department with formal supervisory positions. It also establishes standards of practice for the various levels that must be met prior to entry into the program.

Since implementing the program in October, eight LNA applicants are currently working on projects and meeting with mentors. The program has been well received; LNA's are excited about their personal growth opportunities and even more excited about finding ways to improve the quality of life for residents in a meaningful and lasting way.

The RiverWoods Gala is held every two years with the goal of creating a powerful, long-lasting impact for one community partner. For the most recent Gala held in October residents sought a recipient organization focused on family and child being. The committee chose The Society of St. Vincent de Paul of Exeter who helps local families and organizations in a variety of ways including providing food and other support. The \$100,000 for St, Vincent de Paul broke all previous records and was considered an incredible success.

The 2015 LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire's Annual Conference featured the theme of "Be the Voice," acknowledging the critical leadership of individuals and organizations who provide innovative care and services to meet the changing needs of older adults. Over 150 people attended along with 33 vendors who highlighted innovative products and services and the latest in senior living technologies.

*LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire is the association of not-for-profit, long-term care providers of housing and services to the elderly in Maine and New Hampshire. The forty-eight member organizations include nursing homes, memory care units, skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, assisted living facilities, federally-assisted and market-rate housing units, home- and community-based services, adult day care, and continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs). [www.LeadinAgeMENH.org](http://www.LeadinAgeMENH.org)*