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Wendy Griese Receives Top Leadership Award

Saint Paul – (February 20, 2017) – Wendy Griese, Life Enrichment Manager at Grand Village in Grand Rapids, was recently honored by LeadingAge Minnesota with the Ray Johnson Leadership in Action Award. The award recognizes a leader in older adult services who has provided excellent leadership to their employees and organization, enhances the quality of life for the residents in the community, and provides exceptional community service.

With more than 30 years of experience in the aging services field, Griese is a natural leader, team builder and mentor who has inspired countless residents, staff and volunteers to live fully and make their community stronger. Over the years, she has created a robust network of hundreds of volunteers who freely share their time and skills to make Grand Village a center of community activity. Griese's philosophy is that everyone matters, everyone has a purpose and everyone can make a difference.

"Wendy has become the heart and soul of Grand Village by leading others to understand themselves better and to know they have an important purpose," said Kyle Hedlund, Executive Director, Grand Village. "She models the behavior she expects and encourages her staff to excel at what they do best. She lets the needs of others guide her work, and her creativity and enthusiasm inspires others to go the extra mile."

During her 30 years at Grand Village, Griese served as an LPN, activities assistant and activities director. She accumulated many duties, including directing volunteers and transportation services, overseeing the gift shop and beauty shop, and the coordinator of a wide variety of activities. Now recently retired, Griese remains one of Grand Village's most active volunteers.

"Her unwavering dedication to the elders in our community is unmatched," Hedlund said. "She has a higher calling that sees and fulfills the individual needs of others. She leads by empowering others to find their own path."

For more information, watch [Wendy Griese – Ray Johnson Leadership in Action Award video](#).

About LeadingAge Minnesota

Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota works alongside its members, caregivers, advocates and consumers to collectively shape the future of aging services and ensure older adults in every community live with dignity, meaning and purpose. Together with more than 50,000 caregivers, LeadingAge Minnesota members provide quality services and supports to nearly 70,000 older adults every day in independent senior housing, assisted living communities, adult day services, in-home care and skilled nursing facilities.