



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
**February 21, 2018**

**CONTACT: Jodi Boyne**  
**651.659.1430**

**CONNECTIONS: RE-CREATING ART, CHANGING PERCEPTIONS**  
**Walker Methodist Highview Hills Receives LeadingAge Minnesota Quality Award**

SAINT PAUL – (Feb 21, 2017) – Walker Methodist Highview Hills in Lakeville recently received a Stars Among Us Quality Award from LeadingAge Minnesota for its Memory Care Art program.

“The Quality Award recognizes progressive and exceptional initiatives that result in meaningful impacts to the customer experience,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “Walker Methodist Highland Hills re-envisioned its memory care art program to better connect its residents to their creativity, abilities and purpose.”

Walker Methodist Highland Hills put a new twist on its popular Memory Care Art program to bring visual and mental stimulation into its programming. With deliberate intention, the program integrated new art forms based upon work of world-renowned artists. Residents recreated the work of artists, one step at a time in short increments using a wide variety of artistic techniques. Because of this program, residents began expressing themselves in new ways and gained a better understanding of their abilities. The program also benefitted family members, as they became aware that the memory challenges of their loved ones do not mean that life cannot be rich and fulfilling.

The work by the residents was exhibited at a Spring Arts Show for the community to experience beautiful artwork that was comparable to work accomplished by other artists without dementia.

**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 63,000 older adults every day in independent senior housing, assisted living communities, adult day, in-home care and skilled nursing facilities.

###