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CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS IN CAREGIVING
Guardian Angels Receives Star Workplace Award from LeadingAge Minnesota

SAINT PAUL – (Feb 21, 2018) – Guardian Angels in Elk River recently received a Star Workplace Award by LeadingAge Minnesota for its innovative High School Nursing Assistant Outreach Program.

The Star Workplace recognizes an aging service provider who is creating and sustaining a positive work environment to recruiting, developing and retaining a strong workforce.

“Guardian Angels developed a partnership with the education community to not only address its workforce challenges but create opportunities to expose high school students to a rewarding career in aging services,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President & CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “It’s going to take a lot of us working together to best prepare Minnesota for the dramatic growth in its aging population, and Guardian Angels is helping to lead the way through this innovative program.”

To address severe workforce challenges, particularly with nurses and nursing assistants, Guardian Angels partnered with local high schools and Anoka Ramsey Community College to introduce health care careers into the high school settings. Students participate in a state-approved training program that includes clinical and classroom instruction and volunteer time in the Guardian Angels care center. After completion, the students are eligible to apply for employment through Guardian Angels.

To date, Guardian Angels has hired 50 percent of the graduates.

“This partnership and program is a model that should be replicated across the state and the industry,” said Laura Cleveland, Director of Professional and Workforce Training, Anoka Ramsey Community College.

“Students in the program learn valuable skills that will benefit them in everyday life. They develop confidence in themselves and in the ability to relate to others. Seeing students grow into their potential and listening to them express gratitude for this opportunity is so rewarding,” said Patricia Sanford, Career and College Readiness Specialist, Independent School District 728 – Elk River, Otsego, Rogers, Zimmerman. “We are grateful to participate in this program and are thankful to Guardian Angels for their ability to think outside the box, reach out and overcome obstacles to make a positive difference in the lives of others.”

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.

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