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CONNECTING GENERATIONS THROUGH LIFE STORIES
Essentia Health – Fosston Living Center and Prairie Pines Assisted Living
Receive Community Collaboration Award

SAINT PAUL – (Feb 21, 2018) – Essentia Health Fosston Living Center and Prairie Pines Assisted Living were recently awarded the Community Collaboration Award from LeadingAge Minnesota.

The Community Collaboration Award celebrates an aging service provider that collaborates with a city, agency, community groups or other businesses to go beyond its health service, housing or commercial enterprise role to support and improve the greater community.

Essentia Health Fosston Living Center and Prairie Pines Assisted Living Community partnered with local high schools and community volunteers to create the Life Story Project. Tenth grade students interviewed residents and created a Life Story Book for each participant that included information about the participant’s childhood days, families, careers, hobbies, likes and dislikes, and favorite memories. The Life Stories were then shared with the residents, families and caregivers at Essentia Health Fosston Living Center and Prairie Pines Assisted Living.

“Through this project, our staff learned more about the people we serve. They are now able to plan and deliver personalized care that focuses on the whole person, values the retained abilities of the person, and engage them in meaningful conversations and experiences,” said Kevin Gish, Administrator, Essentia Health Fosston.

“Encouraging cross-generational relationships is key to develop a greater understanding and acceptable of aging in our society,” said Gayle Kvenvold, President & CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. “The Life Story Project helped create bonds between our younger generation and older adults, enhanced the lives of those involved in the program, and strengthened the overall community connection to aging.”

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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