



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2019

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4 Program Assistants at Minnesota Veteran's Home – Minneapolis Adult Day Services Receive Make Zero Harm Possible Award

Saint Paul, MN (June 4, 2019) – Four program assistants from the Minnesota Veteran's Home Adult Day Services Center in Minneapolis have received the Make Zero Harm Possible Award from LeadingAge Minnesota. Olunmi Gbadamosi, Mary Falkowski, Maggie McGown and Gloria Smith were recognized for their successful Falls Reduction Initiative.

Approximately one in four people age 65 and older in the U.S. report falling each year. Falls are the leading cause of fatal injury and the most common cause of nonfatal trauma-related hospital admissions among older adults. Since the Falls Reduction Initiative at the Minnesota Veteran's Home – Minneapolis Adult Day Services center began in August 2018, there have only been two falls.

"It is because of the actions taken every day by dedicated caregivers like Olunmi Gbadamosi, Mary Falkowski, Maggie McGown and Gloria Smith that seniors who participate in adult day programs receive safe, quality care and the support they need as an integral part of a life well lived," said Gayle Kvenvold, President and CEO, LeadingAge Minnesota. "It is a true honor to recognize these women for going above and beyond in their work to achieve clinical outcomes and enhance person-centered partnerships with the seniors they serve."

Ann Rostratter, RN-Director at the Minneapolis Veteran's Home – Minneapolis Adult Day Services center, calls the dedicated program assistants her "helicopter angels" for their work to know and understand the individual needs of each person they serve and monitor them for when additional assistance was needed to reduce the risk of a potential fall.

"Our staff gets to know our clients so well that they become in tune with them and can be proactive with safety measures," said Ann Rostratter.

Falls can happen due to fatigue, illness, poor vision, improper footwear and many other reasons. Rather than implementing a one-size fits all approach, Smith, Falkowski, McGown and Gbadamosi focused on the individual needs, preferences and capabilities of each senior they serve. They were able to recognize when clients required additional support, such as a walker or wheelchair, to help them during the day or whether rest was needed to help them maintain their physical strength and overall wellness. Their efforts decreased the number of falls at the center and enhanced the overall quality of life for the people they serve.

The Make Zero Harm Possible award is one component of LeadingAge Minnesota's [Safe Care for Seniors](#) initiative, a comprehensive safety and quality improvement program. The program is designed to strengthen the culture of safety, prevent the risk of harm before it occurs and uncover new opportunities for learning and improvement in the delivery of care and services.

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About LeadingAge Minnesota

Driven to transform and enhance the experience of aging, LeadingAge Minnesota is the state's largest association of organizations serving older adults. Together with more than 50,000 caregivers, our members provide quality, compassionate services and support to nearly 70,000 older adults every day in independent living, assisted living, adult day and skilled nursing.