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INSTITUTE FOR INCENTIVES IN HEALTH CARE GIVES KENDAL A GRANT TO RECOGNIZE FRONT-LINE EMPLOYEE WHO MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Kendal Charitable Funds has been awarded a grant for \$3,000 from *Incentives in Health Care* to support programming that improves the quality of life for older Americans. When asked why Kendal was selected as recipient for this grant R. Knight Steel, M.D., past Chief, Health of the Elderly Programme, World Health Organization and Professor of Medicine, Boston University School of Medicine responded, “The purposes of both are in sync because they both wish to maximize function and the quality of life of each individual for the longest period of time.”

“This important grant provides a wonderful way for Kendal to recognize the efforts of our staff,” says Cheryl Wade, Director of Philanthropy for The Kendal Corporation. “The vital role that our staff plays in our day-to-day work improves the lives of our residents and makes all the difference. This grant gives us an opportunity to show how much we value our front-line associates. Our Kendal-care vision can only happen if those who provide that care every day surpass our goals and work with passion for those entrusted to our care. Every gift we receive like this multiplies our ability to make a difference in the individual lives of people and we are delighted when others join us in that effort.”

This grant has been awarded to Mary Baker, Kendal at Oberlin’s Staff Education Coordinator, whose commitment to Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) is making a difference at Kendal affiliates. Mary works with CNAs to expand their knowledge of elderly care issues. She developed a curriculum and presents educational programs for front-line staff throughout the Kendal system. As a result of her work she has been of service to hundreds of older residents at Kendal affiliates across the northeast.

According to Peggy Sinnott, The Kendal Corporation’s Director for Health Services, “As both a nurse and a nurse educator, Mary has the skills and commitment to put together successful educational programs for our front-line staff in nine [nursing centers] in the northeast. Mary’s monthly phone calls provide both education and fellowship for the committed CNAs who must often deal with the most difficult problems facing our residents. In addition, she also organized a successful retreat which was very well

received by staff. She shows great commitment to her mission and is an excellent choice for this award.”

When asked about her teleconferences on the third Friday of every month, Mary Baker responded, “CNAs need to be advocates for the residents in their care. We have studied skin care, nutrition, and exercise, to name a few of our topics. In 2008, we will be talking about preventing hypothermia and frostbite. Also, topics can change if the need presents itself. Staff gets a chance to share what is working in their [communities] with others and that kind of cross-pollination of ideas supports their work. Networking at the front-line is a key to a CNA's successful career. It is a privilege to work with them because they care so deeply about our residents.”

Kendal Charitable Funds, incorporated in 1994, is the umbrella organization for various Kendal Corporation outreach efforts. In addition, residents of Kendal affiliates, together with a wider constituency, support various funds to help ensure economic diversity in the resident population as well as assistance to residents who may need help.

The Institute for Incentives in Health Care, a 501c3 not-for-profit corporation, was formed in 2005. Its mission is to strive to identify the incentives and disincentives, economic and other, in the health care system and demonstrate ways to improve the quality of care.