



**For Immediate Release**

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Contact: [AHCAPressOffice@ahca.org](mailto:AHCAPressOffice@ahca.org)

(202) 898-3165

## **AHCA/NCAL Announces 2017 Bronze National Quality Award Recipients**

*520 long term and post-acute care providers in 46 states recognized for commitment to quality care*

**Washington, D.C.**—Today, 520 long term and post-acute care providers in 46 states are being recognized with a 2017 *Bronze - Commitment to Quality Award* by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL). The award is the first of three distinctions possible through the [AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program](#), which honors long term and post-acute care providers that have demonstrated their commitment to improving the quality of care for seniors and persons with disabilities.

“Bronze award recipients advance our mission of improving lives by delivering solutions for quality care,” said Mark Parkinson, President and CEO of AHCA/NCAL. “We applaud their efforts to enrich the lives of those in the long term and post-acute care communities we serve.”

Implemented by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, the National Quality Award Program is centered on the core values and criteria of the *Baldrige Performance Excellence Program*, which is also the foundation of the metric-based [AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative](#). The Baldrige program helps organizations in different business sectors improve and achieve performance excellence.

The award program has three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Providers begin the quality improvement process at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile with fundamental performance elements such as vision and mission statements and key strengths and challenges. Bronze applicants must also demonstrate their ability to implement a performance improvement system. Trained Examiners review each application to determine if the center has met the demands of the criteria. Recipients may now move forward in developing approaches and achieving performance levels that meet the criteria required for the *Silver - Achievement in Quality Award*. A full list of the recipients is available on the AHCA/NCAL Quality Awards website [here](#).

“We congratulate this year’s Bronze award recipients and look forward to offering continued support and guidance on their journey to improve quality care,” said AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Board of Overseers Chair Alana Wolfe. “The dedication and focus on quality that each organization has shown garners recognition. It will serve their patients and residents well.”

The Association will announce the 2017 *Silver - Achievement in Quality* and *Gold – Excellence in Quality Award* recipients in the coming months. The National Quality Award Program is sponsored by AHCA/NCAL Associate Business Members: First Quality, National Research Corporation, and Team TSI Corporation. The awards will be presented during AHCA/NCAL's 68th Annual Convention and Exposition in Las Vegas, Nevada, October 15-18, 2017.

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**ABOUT AHCA/NCAL**

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represent more than 13,000 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit [www.ahca.org](http://www.ahca.org) or [www.ncal.org](http://www.ncal.org).