



NEWS RELEASE: NOBLE CAREGIVER AWARD – STACY WILLIAMS

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LIFESPRK CAREGIVER STACY WILLIAMS WINS NOBLE CAREGIVER AWARD

Williams to be Honored August 21 at Care Providers of Minnesota Senior Housing Summit

August 7, 2014 — Lifesprk caregiver, Stacy Williams of Oakdale, has been chosen by Care Providers of Minnesota as the recipient of the 2014 Noble Caregiver: Senior Living award. Williams will be honored August 21 at Care Providers of Minnesota Senior Housing Summit during a celebration luncheon.

The award according to Lisa Foss Olson, Recognition Committee Staff Liaison with Care Providers of Minnesota, recognizes frontline caregivers for their contributions that lead to improved quality of life for residents and create a better work environment for the housing with services/assisted living community's staff. Williams who is a Lifesprk caregiver at Oak Meadows, a senior living community, was nominated by her peers who felt her positive attitude contributes to the overall well-being of people she serves and increases team moral.

Naomi Fluck, RN, Lifesprk Director of Campus Life Care at Oak Meadows, said that she witnesses Williams's contributions on a daily basis. "At Lifesprk, we empower our employees to help spark the lives of people in the second half of life because we know it helps keep them off the roller coaster of health care crises," shared Fluck. "Stacy does this naturally - her kind, soft spoken demeanor calms tenants, especially those with dementia and their eyes light up when they know she is at work. Stacy is a caregiver who is devoted to her clients, immediately becoming an extension of their family."

Lifesprk has more than 400 caregivers working throughout the community and at several campuses in the Twin Cities. "Our caregivers are at the forefront of what we do at Lifesprk," said Joel Theisen, RN, CEO and Founder of Lifesprk. "We've always believed people in the second half of life deserve a different experience – one that explores and discovers who they are as a whole person, not just who they are medically while giving them the outcomes they all want. This award celebrates Williams as a devoted caregiver who truly understands our mission. On a daily basis she is investing in the extra efforts to engage her tenants because she knows when people's lives are sparked, their health and well-being ultimately improve."

Kim Utecht Prayfrock, Director of Community Relations at Oak Meadows, echoed Fluck's sentiments saying that Williams' contributions to the well-being of each tenant are powerful. "A year ago we partnered with Lifesprk to become our in-house provider for our tenants," said Prayfrock. "The quality of caregivers we've seen from Lifesprk has sparked not only our tenants' lives, but our staff as well." "Williams provides hands on service like assistance with personal cares, medication administration, socialization, daily activities/recreation and laundry to name a few, but she also goes deeper to discover people's passions – this is unique in home care and something that is changing the experience for our tenants," added Prayfrock.

Several letters of support from staff, clients and former family members helped win Williams this award. Each letter wrote of Williams' initiative and performance going beyond the call of duty providing comfort and service to tenants, family members and volunteers. "I've been in the health care industry for more than 17 years," added Fluck. "Not once have I witnessed the profound effect one person can have on people's lives."

ABOUT LIFESPRK

One of the fastest growing companies in the Twin Cities, Lifesprk, formerly AgeWell, has experienced double-digit growth almost since its founding in 2004. The company is the leading provider of Life Experience (a unique blend of geriatric care management and home care) in the metro, and is becoming a national catalyst to eliminate the roller coaster of health care crises.

Lifesprk's leaders have seen too many people in the second half of life on a roller coaster of crises that robs *them* of control, opportunities and independence. That robs *our society* of their wisdom, laughter and presence. That's just not acceptable, and the Lifesprk team has made it their passion to **change that experience**. Lifesprk is about opportunities. With three levels of service available, they provide a flexible continuum of support to match what people need and help them build a pathway to their goals, addressing any issues or concerns that may interfere. With their proprietary Lifesprk Experience™ they provide proactive guidance to give people just the right level of support to SHINE the way they want according to THEIR goals.

Visit www.lifesprk.com for more information.

ABOUT OAK MEADOWS

Oak Meadows, in Oakdale, has been named "Best" since 2001. In 2010 and 2011 they received an award for being "25 Best Assisted Living Operators" in Minnesota. They are a not-for-profit community with 62 independent, 48 assisted and 12 memory care apartments. Oak Meadows is affiliated with the United Church of Christ and a member of their Council for Health and Human Service Ministries. They offer 24/7 home care staff and a 24/7 receptionist along with full dining services, store, bus for activities and full-time chaplain. They are proud to be celebrating 15 years in the community this year!

ABOUT CARE PROVIDERS OF MN

Care Providers of Minnesota is a non-profit membership association with the mission to Empower Members to Performance Excellence. Our 800+ members across Minnesota represent non-profit and for-profit organizations providing services along the full spectrum of care. We are the state affiliate for the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living, and with our national partners we provide solutions for quality care.