

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 24, 2015

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Partnership Will Offer Caregivers Cutting-Edge Online Care Dementia Training and Certification
WHCA/WiCAL and LeadingAge Wisconsin to Work with HealthCare Interactive's CARES Program

MADISON – LeadingAge Wisconsin, the Wisconsin Health Care Association and the Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WHCA/WiCAL) have signed an agreement to provide a cutting-edge, national award-winning online dementia caregiver training system to their respective memberships.

The system developed by HealthCare Interactive is called CARES® Complete Catalog online dementia care training programs. Through interactive features and real-life videos, professionals learn thoughtful and effective ways to make life less stressful for both the person living with dementia and the caregiver.

CARES Complete Catalog offers 32 modules (32 hours) of high quality training on an unlimited-user basis for a nursing home, assisted living facility, hospice or home care location. The training programs each teach evidence-based care practices from hundreds of national and international research studies. They also teach the CARES® Approach, an easy-to-learn, easy-to-apply approach that can be used in any situation and with a person at any level of dementia decline. CARES is the only online dementia care training specifically recommended by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS).

"With an increasing majority of residents in our assisted living and skilled nursing facilities having some form of dementia or cognitive impairment, including Alzheimer's disease, it is essential their caregivers have access to the highest caliber of dementia training products and techniques," said Tom Moore, WHCA's Executive Director. "WHCA/WiCAL is proud to offer the most innovative and effective professional training product that exists in the national marketplace today."

"This is not a one-stage-fits-all disease so caregiving approaches must be flexible and person-specific, reflective of the person's dementia," said John Sauer, President and CEO of LeadingAge Wisconsin. "This training program is exceptional in allowing caregivers to better serve residents by understanding both the complexities and subtleties of dementia. LeadingAge Wisconsin is pleased to offer this cutting-edge training to our members."

Memory loss diagnoses are increasing each year, and the demand for quality dementia care training is growing nationwide. According to the *Alzheimer's Association 2015 Facts & Figures* report, the number of people with Alzheimer's is projected to sharply increase from more than 5 million today to as many as 16 million by 2050, as the 78 million baby boomers mature and reach the age of highest risk.

"I commend Wisconsin's long-term care provider associations for their proactive efforts to assure caregivers in their member organizations have access to a full suite of dementia training topics dementia training" said Tom Hlavacek, Executive Director of the Alzheimer's Association, South Eastern Wisconsin Chapter.

After completing select CARES training courses, professional caregivers, as well as family and friends who provide unpaid care, can be recognized for learning quality dementia care practices with the Alzheimer's Association® essentiALZ® certification program. The essentiALZ exam tests knowledge of the evidence-based and nationally recognized Alzheimer's Association Dementia Care Practice Recommendations, which are supported nationwide by more than 30 leading health and senior care organizations.

For more information on the CARES training program offerings in Wisconsin, visit WHCA/WiCAL at www.hcinteractive.com/ahcaWI or Leading Age Wisconsin at www.hcinteractive.com/LeadingAgeWI.