

For Immediate Release:

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National Skilled Nursing Care Week: Honoring Health Care Heroes and Those Who Rely on Skilled Nursing Care Professionals

MADISON – LeadingAge Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Health Care Association/Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WHCA/WiCAL) today encouraged all Wisconsin residents to recognize our elders and citizens of any age living with physical or intellectual disabilities who reside in skilled nursing care centers or receive care at home in Wisconsin, along with the dedicated caregivers, nurses, staff, and volunteers who provide that care.

National Skilled Nursing Care Week is being celebrated May 9-15, 2021. The theme of this year's National Skilled Nursing Care Week is "Together Through the Seasons." The week honors the collaborative commitment of skilled nursing care centers in providing compassionate care to their residents. It also recognizes Wisconsin's skilled nursing care providers for their selflessness, sacrifice, and empathy providing essential care to patients and residents, while working with families to ensure that their loved ones are safe, according to a proclamation from Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers.

"Our residents deserve the best care possible. Skilled nursing facility staff deserve the greatest support possible. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, caregivers showed up for work each and every day to fulfill their duties as caregivers while so many of us sheltered at home. They continue to work tirelessly and courageously, providing critically necessary care and service to Wisconsin's long-term care residents," said John Sauer, president and CEO of LeadingAge Wisconsin.

"National Skilled Nursing Care Week is a reminder of the importance of being present and celebrating the small moments of our family members and friends who reside in a skilled nursing facility," said Rick Abrams, president & CEO of WHCA/WiCAL. "This is a special time to thank the 85,000 dedicated caregivers who support and care for more than 90,000 older adults and people living with disabilities served by nursing facilities throughout the state."

Sauer and Abrams encouraged people to call, visit virtually or in-person, if it is safe to do so, and spend time with loved ones living in any care setting in the coming week.

National Skilled Nursing Care Week is a time to celebrate the important work of skilled nursing care professionals and honor the valuable contributions of people in care settings throughout the state, they said.

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National Skilled Nursing Week – Add One

***LeadingAge Wisconsin**, is a mission-driven, not-for-profit, member-supported, statewide association serving as a leader in advancing the field of long-term care through advocacy, education, and the development of collaborative strategies for its members and the general public. All totaled, LeadingAge Wisconsin, the state’s largest full continuum association, serves 562 long-term care, assisted living, senior housing, and other community-based providers principally serving older adults and individuals with a disability.*

***The Wisconsin Health Care Association (WHCA)** is a non-profit organization dedicated to representing, protecting and advancing the interests of Wisconsin’s long-term and post-acute care provider community and the residents they serve. **The Wisconsin Center for Assisted Living (WiCAL)** is a division of WHCA that advocates for assisted living facilities by helping members provide the highest quality services to the Badger State’s frail and elderly citizens. Together, WHCA/WiCAL represents long-term care providers across the care continuum in Wisconsin.*

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