



# for your INFORMATION

Friends Of Residents In Long Term Care Newsletter

March 2008

Volume XXII

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## More to Do in the Short Session

By Polly Williams, Vice Chair of the FORLTC Public Policy Committee

*Two important funding items for the short session of the General Assembly:*

- *Increase funding for the star rating system for adult care homes*
- *Allot \$7 million in recurring funds for the Home and Community Care Block Grant*

Some significant legislation affecting the elderly was passed during the last session of the General Assembly for which advocates are grateful--but not so grateful that they will not be looking to legislators for a few improvements. Following passage of the hard-fought bill establishing a rating system to guide consumers in choosing an adult care home, the Medical Care Commission did the difficult work of devising rules for the system. Advocates as well as providers were welcomed at the meetings of the sub-committee that added here and subtracted there to arrive at a set of rules incorporating a number of the suggestions made by advocates from NC-AARP, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care and other supporters. In order not to harm facilities that depend on payments from State/County Assistance and Medicaid for almost their only income, stars are awarded chiefly for compliance with basic standards of care. Demerits come not only from minor violations but from

Type A penalties (life-threatening violations) and Type B penalties (serious but not life-threatening). Some credit will be awarded for changes that improve the quality of care in one way or another.

Providers naturally wanted facilities to get lost points returned when violations were corrected, and advocates, on the other hand, wanted scores to be affected by serious violations. One of the issues was the Type A penalty for too-hot water. Providers pointed out that water temperature is difficult to control. But, the penalty must be assigned because scalding can be serious. If the temperature is corrected should any trace of the penalty remain in the scoring? Also, there is a question about consistency in grading. State inspectors who do the rating have not been on the job long and may not always see violations in the same way so that the awarding of stars may be somewhat arbitrary, at least for a while. So the rating system can be a guide, but not the whole answer. A visit to a facility is also called for to check on the food and quality of care before deciding that it will be the right home for Grandma.

Adult care homes will be able to earn stars under a system that ranges from no stars (for an inspection rating of under 70 points) to four stars for a facility receiving

*Continued on Page 7*

**Full FORLTC Legislative Agenda on Pages 6-7**

*The mission of Friends of Residents in Long Term Care is to promote the highest quality of care for those who cannot live independently, and for those who care for them.*



# Words from the Board Chair

By June Brotherton

I am delighted to serve as Chair of Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care for 2008. We have a big agenda this year, and we really need your help to make it happen.

## The 2008 Legislative Session Looms

Take a close look at our legislative agenda for the short session. Increasing residents' personal needs allowance, addressing the issue of mixed populations, supporting a study to require air conditioning in facilities, and making dental care accessible to residents are fundamental to increasing quality of life for frail elderly and disabled residents in long-term care. We also continue to advocate for increased wages and benefits for the hard-working direct care workers who mean so much to our residents' quality of life and quality of care, and we're keeping a eye on the star rating system to ensure no negative changes occur.

Please respond when we send out a legislative alert asking you to make contact with your local legislators on these issues. When it comes to long-term care issues, all politics are local, and your Senator or Representative will certainly take time to listen to the viewpoints of someone who helps them get elected.

## Economy Impacting Non-Profits

If you haven't renewed your membership to Friends, please do so today using the handy form on the back of this newsletter. And, if you can dig a little deeper into your pockets, please make a donation to help Friends keep its work going. Every dollar is critical, particularly in this economic downturn.

The current economic flux that is occurring is impacting you, me and those very foundations and agencies from which we receive funding. While our board is working very hard to ensure that Friends will have the resources it will need to do its work in the coming year, we depend on the goodwill of donors like you who believe in the work that we do. Please help as much as you can.

## Good Reading: *The Longevity Revolution*

As I was driving to a Friends of Residents meeting the other day, I tuned into NPR to *The Diane Rehm Show*. Dr. Robert N. Butler, Pulitzer Prize-winning author, gerontologist, physician and psychiatrist was her guest, and he was discussing his latest book, *The Longevity Revolution*.

He talked about the positives of aging. Americans have gained 30 years of additional life expectancy during the 20th century, and declining disability rates among seniors have meant increased quality of life for a longer period of time for seniors. You know, 70 is the new 50...

However, people with Alzheimer's disease now comprise 50 percent of the population in nursing homes. He stated that if the U.S. could successfully address the issue of a cure for Alzheimer's, it would free up 50% of the resources currently spent in long-term care to address other medical issues and increase quality of care. It also could mean that half of the 1.6 million people currently in nursing homes due to Alzheimer's could potentially avoid or mitigate the disease and live a longer, more quality-filled life outside of a long-term care facility. In the last legislative session, the General Assembly appropriated a significant amount of money to the UNC Hospitals/School of Medicine to ramp up a major cancer research institute. Think of what could happen if they did the same thing for Alzheimer's research?

He also discussed the need for more physicians who are educated in geriatrics or are geriatric specialists. The reason why there aren't more geriatric doctors is that it pays less. It is not considered a technical specialty, like a cardiologist. So, his solution was not to push for more geriatric physicians, but the addition of 10 geriatric faculty members to each of the country's 145 medical schools so that all physicians graduate knowing at least the basics of geriatrics. In a country in which one in five people, or 20%, are now elderly, the time seems ripe to train emerging physicians to deal with the special issues and needs of the elderly, particularly those in long-term care. ■

## For Your Information

*The newsletter of Friends of Residents in Long Term Care*

### 2007 Officers

Chair.....June M. Brotherton  
Vice Chair.....Dr. J. LeRoy King  
Secretary/Treasurer.....Helen Savage

### Staff

Executive Director.....Flora Lea Loudon  
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Hillsborough St.  
Raleigh, NC

*For Your Information* is published four times yearly & is a benefit of annual membership in Friends of Residents in Long Term Care.

## FORLTC Names New Lobbyist for 2008 Session

Friends has named Paula A. Wolf, founder of *Paulatics, LLC*, as their lobbyist for the 2008 Legislative Session.

“We are delighted to have someone of Paula’s expertise and experience in government relations,” said June Brotherton, board chairman. “Plus, her experience and commitment to non-profit causes makes her a natural choice for a group that does not represent special interests.”

Friends chose Wolf because of her excellent record of involving large numbers of citizens in the political process and her experience using the internet to educate and inform both grassroots activists and legislators. “I know from personal observation of Paula’s work in the General Assembly,” added Brotherton, “that she only takes on clients with agendas that she feels passionate about and is willing to work tirelessly for.”

In her role as lobbyist, Wolf will also provide consultation and advice to the Public Policy Committee and the Friends board in developing its legislative agenda.



*Paula Wolf*

*Paulatics, LLC* is a government affairs, political relations and political consulting firm specializing in legislative, executive, grassroots and cyber lobbying for nonprofit organizations in the North Carolina General Assembly. It provides expertise in political consulting, public relations, education and training. ■

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### More to Do, *continued from Page 1*

100 or more points on two consecutive annual inspections. Extra merit points are earned by participation in quality improvement programs, installing a generator or sprinklers, or receiving NC-NOVA designation for a program of mentoring and training for direct care workers.

The addition of the fourth star to reward a facility that does everything right for two years in a row is owing to the efforts of advocates. They not only attended the sub-committee sessions but found 10 organizations that would sign a letter urging the Medical Care Commission to devise a system providing useful guidance to consumers. The hope of all advocates is that administrators of adult care homes will want not only to pass inspections but to earn more stars by improving the quality of care they offer. Homes whose residents are supported by Medicaid and State/County Assistance should be able to do this as well as those with more resources.

In March, the Rules Review Commission will meet to consider the new

rules. Barring objections there or barring the receipt of ten letters of objection, the system will go into effect on April 1 with the first ratings certificates issued in January. If there are objections, the General Assembly will have to revisit the rules.

At the end of its work, Lucy Bode, chair of the Medical Care Commission, wrote a letter pointing out that more funding is needed from the legislature for staff to provide follow-up inspections so that facilities that have corrected violations can redeem themselves and get new and better scores. County social services departments need to be able to expand their technical assistance to homes for quality improvement projects. Funding will also be necessary if homes are to be rewarded for earning high ratings (lots of stars). With more experience on the part of inspectors and with more funding to shore up the system, North Carolina can achieve a rating system that consumers can depend on for helping to steer frail elderly people to the right home. No other state has a system

just like ours, and we are expecting good things from it.

Meanwhile—for those elderly people who want to remain at home, the waiting list for in-home services is now 11,500 persons long. Each county has its own list of services such as personal care, Meals on Wheels, and transportation to medical appointments. These services are offered first to low-income persons, but there is no income eligibility test. Those who can pay something are expected to. In the last legislative session, advocates for the elderly asked worked for more funds for the Home and Community Care Block Grant to provide services for more of those on the waiting list—and yet an increase of only \$536,000 was allocated. We need to encourage our legislators to do better this time. A sum of \$7 million in recurring funds would help a lot of people who want to stay at home and who may otherwise be forced to go into institutional care (at greater expense to the state). That means a lot of expensive damage. We need to let our legislators hear from us on this issue. ■

# Top 10 Ways You Can Help FORLTC Help LTC Residents...

1. ***Send your e-mail address to friends@forltc.org so we can mail the newsletter to you electronically and save postage and printing.*** We don't ever sell or share our e-mail list, and we will not abuse this privilege by inundating you with e-mails. We promise.
2. ***Donate items for our rummage sale on April 19.*** Call the FORLTC office at 782-1530 for information about what items are needed and where to bring your donated items. (No large furniture, please, as our male members who will be moving this stuff don't need to add hernias to their list of ailments)
3. ***Renew your membership to FORLTC if you haven't already done so.*** Memberships run from January to December, and are tax-deductible.
4. ***Join our Public Policy Committee,*** and help get changes made to laws that improve quality of care for long-term residents. Contact Bob Konrad, Chair, at bobkonrad@gmail.com if you are interested.
5. ***Join our Education and Outreach Committee,*** and help develop and deliver programs that educate long-term care residents and their families about planning for long-term care, as well as issues related to quality of care and quality of life. Contact Teresa Johnson at tj.ccadc@mindspring.com if you are interested in joining this committee.
6. ***Make a donation now to Friends, or create a bequest in your will*** to benefit FORLTC in the future. FORLTC is the only non-profit in the state that concentrates solely on increasing quality of life for residents of long-term care, and we need your support to keep doing our job. Membership dues comprise only a very small part of the funding needed to keep our programs going. All donations are tax-deductible.
7. ***Join us at the General Assembly in Spring 2009 for the Public Policy Conference/Legislative Advocacy Day,*** where our members and friends learn about the issues facing long-term care residents and then, walk the halls of the legislature to educate their representatives about these issues.
8. ***Join us for the Friends Fall Fun Fling,*** which is a combination social and silent auction, with the proceeds benefiting FORLTC. Buy tickets and come and enjoy this fun event, and/or join the planning committee, and/or get merchants and artists you know to donate items for the silent auction. Contact the Friends office at 782-1530 for more information.
9. ***Share a story about the quality of care and quality of life of a family member who is or was in long-term care.*** Please contact us at friends@forltc.org if you are interested in doing so. We would like to publish some of them — good and bad — in the newsletter.
10. ***Most important, if you have a church, civic, family council or other organization who needs a speaker, please think of FORLTC.*** We would like to spread the word about our organization and its mission, so more people who may need our help will be aware of Friends.

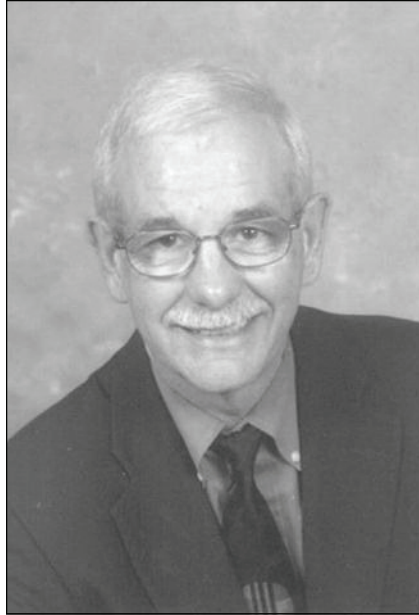
2007 Sharon Wilder Advocacy Award Winner John Wasson:

## Championing the Rights of Mentally Ill LTC Residents

“As we go through our lives and careers, on rare occasions we are blessed to encounter someone with a contagious attitude that enlists us to permanently enhance or change our way of thinking. This person persuades us to think more creatively, envisions ways we can make a difference, expose our own limitations, and to take risks to accomplish our goals.” These words were used to nominate John Wasson, Director of Cleveland County Department of Social Services, for FORLTC’s 2007 Sharon Wilder Advocacy award.

The nomination goes on to state, “Upon coming to our agency in 1999, he became immersed in advocacy toward bettering the lives of younger mentally ill residents in adult care homes. ... to him these are people who deserve a voice, a chance, a quality of life that gives them health and safety and the same sense of satisfaction and hope that we all yearn for at the end of each day.”

Why is advocacy such a part of John Wasson’s practice? To those who work with him closely, it seems to be a part of the essence of his personal phi-



John Wasson

losophy...it’s just who John is. His determination became even stronger when a deaf African-American male named Junius Wilson crossed his path, strongly defining the severe tragedy that can occur in the absence of advocacy. Wilson was wrongly accused of a crime and was placed in a mental institution for over seven decades even though there was no mental health diagnosis. Wasson brought this injustice to light, and that story is documented in a recently released book, *Unspeakable; The Story of Junius Wilson* by Susan Burch, published by the University of North Carolina Press.

Congratulations to John for winning the Sharon Wilder Advocacy Award for his many years of advocating for those in need. *Unspeakable: The Story of Junius Wilson* is worth a read as it documents his advocacy efforts against great odds. The book will also hopefully inspire people to advocate for those who may not be able to do so for themselves, no matter how impossible the dream may seem. ■

— Chris Ivy



### 1st Annual FORLTC Rummage Sale

Sat. April 19 & Sun. April 20, 2008 ■ State Fair Flea Market  
8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m ■ Rain Date: Saturday, April 26-27, 2008

*Let Your Trash & Collectibles Be Our Treasures!*

No large furniture/appliances, please! ■ Donations are tax-deductible!

#### We need donations of:

- Collectibles
- Bed linens, curtains, rugs, towel sets
- Small appliances
- Kitchen items
- China, glasses, table linens
- Spring and summer clothing only,
- especially plus-size women’s & children’s
- Children’s toys and games
- Gardening tools & implements
- Craft items—scrapbooking, knitting,
- Books—no old textbooks, please!
- Tools—drills, hammers, etc.
- Decorative items—pictures, baskets, wreathes, etc.
- Working electronics, such as TVs, computers, stereos
- Framed pictures, art

For information about drop-off dates and locations, please call the Friends office at 782-1530, e-mail us at [friends@forltc.org](mailto:friends@forltc.org), or stay tuned to the FORLTC website at [www.forltc.org](http://www.forltc.org).

## ***Advocating for Better Quality of Life, Quality of Care for the State's Long Term Care Residents***

- ***Support a bill that would increase Medicaid nursing home residents' personal needs allowance from \$30 per month to \$50 per month.***

Federal law requires a Medicaid personal needs allowance of at least \$30 per month. A Medicaid Personal Needs Allowance Increase bill was introduced in the 2004–2005 legislative session to increase it from \$30 per month to \$50 per month for residents in skilled nursing facilities. The bill was referred to Appropriations,

where no action was taken. The following information is taken from the bill:

This \$30 allowance for residents in NC nursing homes has not been increased since 1988, and is not sufficient to cover the cost of personal needs of residents. In December 2004, over 25% of states paid

\$40.00 - \$49.00 in Medicaid personal needs allowance for skilled nursing facility residents, and protocols for automatic annual increases in the personal needs allowance are in place in five states. Furthermore, the Medicaid personal needs allowance paid by the State draws down the federal match to these funds.

- ***Continue to support efforts to address concerns related to mixed populations in adult care homes.***

Studies conducted in N.C. indicate that over 40% of persons residing in adult care homes have a diagnosis of mental illness. These persons are often younger and placed in facilities

designed and staffed to serve an older, frailer clientele. Mixing of younger persons with mental illness with older, frail adults creates less than optimal situations for both groups, often impacting the well-being and safety of residents. A lack of viable housing options often forms the basis of placement in residential care facilities. Persons with mental illness or developmental disabilities often lack appropriate services and supports.

- ***Support a study of the need for requiring air conditioning in adult care homes due to changing weather patterns.***

The study should include a determination of the number of facilities across the state currently without air conditioning, as well as the medical implications and impact on quality of life associated with exposure of residents to increasingly hot temperatures.

Currently in adult care homes, if the temperature in the main center corridor exceeds 80 degrees, the facility is required to have air conditioning or a fan for each resident bedroom. The rules do not require that the temperature then be maintained below 80 degrees.

- ***Support the enhancement and provision of new dental services in long term care facilities.***

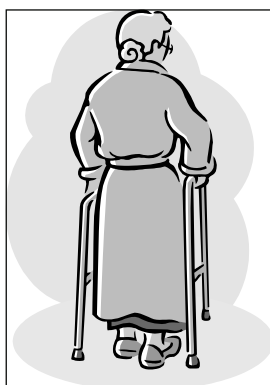
There is no consistent access to dental care for the more than 200,000 North Carolinians who



are homebound or live in nursing homes or group homes. North Carolina has no statewide oral health system to serve patients with special care needs. We need to change that! Long term care facilities have few qualified community dentists to care for their residents and are challenged to meet each resident's daily oral hygiene needs. Local dental providers are reluctant to treat the medical and behavior needs of patients with special care needs. There are no specialty training programs for providers wanting to serve this population.

Uncontrolled oral infections result in more costly infections such as aspiration pneumonia, uncontrolled diabetes and endocarditis. Medicaid rates do not keep up with inflation. The two non-profit programs that serve these individuals (Access Dental Care/Carolinas Mobile Dentistry) are stretched to the financial breaking point. These organizations provide comprehensive

care to 6400 residents in 13 piedmont counties with an 80% Medicaid/20% Private Pay mix. (\*Source: Access Dental Care, [www.accessdentalcare.org](http://www.accessdentalcare.org))



• **Support enhanced wages, benefits, shift differentials and other labor enhancements for direct care workers in long term care facilities to improve recruit-**

**ment, retention, development and job satisfaction.**

This is expected to result in improving the quality of care, continuity of care and quality of life of long term care facility residents. Labor enhancements include but are not limited to en-

hanced wages, benefits, shift differentials, career ladders and child care options.

According to the NC Study Commission on Aging, on 02/15/06, the Commission heard a presentation on the NC NOVA project. The presentation highlighted the high turnover rates for direct care workers in N.C., with average annual turnover rates in 2004 being 106% in adult care homes and 107% in nursing homes. The presentation also shared that direct care jobs are among the occupations with the largest projected job growth, with N.C. anticipated to need 30,590 additional direct care workers from 2002 to 2012. Furthermore, as of November 2004, the median hourly wage for direct care workers defined as nurse aides, orderlies and attendants was \$9.59. (Source: NC Study Commission on Aging draft recommendations, April 4, 2006)

**Additional legislative goals:**

- **Strengthen guardianship laws and prevention of elder abuse.**
- **Improve disaster preparedness of long term care facilities and local planning efforts.**
- **Carefully monitor the progress of the Star Rating System in adult care, including appropriation of funds for technical assistance and tiered reimbursement.**

In addition, FORLTC, as part of various aging coalitions, will continue to support broad-based efforts to increase the home and community-based services for older and disabled citizens of North Carolina. ■

***Interested in improving quality of care & quality of life for frail elders & the disabled in long-term care?***

**We're looking for new members for the FORLTC Public Policy Committee, and you're welcome at monthly meetings! Contact Bob Konrad at [bobkonrad@gmail.com](mailto:bobkonrad@gmail.com) if you're interested in joining.**

# Membership Contributions (October 2007-February 2008)

*Thanks to these contributors for helping Friends continue its mission!*

## **BENEFACTORS & SUPER FRIENDS**

### **(\$1,000 AND UP)**

Anonymous (Super Friend)  
June Brotherton  
Dr. LeRoy King  
David Moser  
John Wasson

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### **Sharon Wilder Advocacy Award**

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### **Jean and Lester Teal**

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## **NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS/SUPPORTERS**

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Denise Rogers  
Philip Sloane  
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Dennis Streets  
Arnold Valdmets  
James Valsame  
Hon. Jennifer Weiss

# Meet Our New Board Members

By Flora Lea Loudon, Executive Director



*In January 2008, six new members of the Board of Directors joined continuing members in contributing their collective expertise toward forwarding the mission throughout the state. Please welcome them and take a minute to read about their interest:*

## **Bob Konrad**

"I agreed to serve on the Board of Directors because I had been working on the public policy committee and wanted to get more involved with other aspects of the organization. Friends has a long history of advocacy and education for people living in long term care; I want to make sure that North Carolina has a high quality long term care system, and that all our citizens, especially our younger citizens, understand how important this is for the future of our state."

## **André Carson**

"I have been a quadriplegic for three years. I am no longer able to represent people like I used to as a 70 hour-a-

week workaholic lawyer. I am now looking for ways to help disabled people--especially those in long-term care facilities, just like me!"

"I will garner support from the neighborhood and the lawyers I used to work with, not to mention the fact that I am a resident of a long-term care facility myself. Shall I say personal experience gave me insight and energy, and as a team, I know we can make a difference."

## **Teresa Johnson**

"I've been a long-time member of FORLTC as there were parallels in our legislative agendas between the Adult Day Services Association and Friends. It wasn't until I met some of the residents of a local nursing home that the statistics became real people to me, and I realized the shocking number of people who do not have family or regular visitors to advocate for them. I hope to help link people to the resources they need and deserve to enhance their quality of life."

## **Phillip R. Miller III**

"As an attorney working in the field, I see the challenges families and individuals face in making choices for themselves and their loved one. Being a new member of the board, I see the opportunity to give a voice to the needs of residents of long-term care who cannot care for themselves and have no visible advocate. I'm willing to share my expertise with others in my field and welcome the chance to be a team player to promote the mission of FORLTC."

## **Ted Wilder**

"I'm passionate about the work of FORLTC and I am pleased to be serving on the Board of Directors. I will join with other members to speak to groups about the work of the organization. We will together find ways to reach more people across the North Carolina who need advocates. Let us know if you'd like to join our speakers group; we'll need volunteers from every county." ■



*Help Friends of Residents do its work to increase quality of care and quality of life for frail elders in long-term care...*

**Consider a tax-deductible gift today and...**

**Please renew your membership for 2008!**

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## 2007 Quest for Quality Highlights

### LTC Best Practices, Excellence in Direct Care and Advocacy

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On October 30, 2007, Friends of Residents in Long Term Care and the N.C. Regional Long Term Care Ombudsman Association welcomed more than 100 guests to celebrate and honor the 2007 Quest for Quality Award winners.

These awards are made bi-annually to advocates, news media, nursing home and adult care facilities, direct care workers, community advisory committees, and legislators who advocate for quality of care and use of best practices in long-term care facilities.

A special presentation was made by Ran Coble on the future of



Ran Coble

long-term care in North Carolina. Ran Coble is the Executive Director for the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. FORLTC and its members continue to be challenged by the magnitude of work ahead, with an adult population of over 90,000 residents in long-term care in North Carolina.

Kim Genardo, NBC 17 anchor and newscaster, presented the 2007 Awards, noting the dedication and continuing excellence in long-term care across the state.

***Special thanks go to event sponsors listed below for their support and the continuing quest for quality in the field of long term care.***

### ***Corporate and Organizational Sponsors***

#### ***Platinum Sponsor:***

PHARMA: Partnership for Prescription Assistance

#### ***Gold Sponsors:***

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Centralina Area on Aging

Division of Aging and Adult Services

NC Association on Aging

The Haven and The Laurels in Highland Creek

### ***Family and Individual Sponsors***

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Ruby Lamb  
Bill and Martha Lamb  
Charles & Lois Lee

Clara Lee  
David and Glenda Moser  
Jill and Jerry Passmore  
Helen Savage  
John and Cheryl Young

# 2007 Quest for Quality Winners

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## **Sharon Wilder Advocacy Award:**

### **John Wasson, Cleveland County**

This award recognizes outstanding advocacy by an individual to improve quality of life for Long Term Care Residents in North Carolina.

## **Direct Care Worker Award:**

### **Cynthia Green, Durham County**

This award is given to recognize a Certified Nursing Assistant or Personal Care Assistant working in a North Carolina long-term care facility who has exhibited outstanding compassion, respect, and promotion of dignity in the delivery of care.

## **Honorable Mentions:**

**Thelma Leathers, Wake County and Jackie Rominski, Craven County**

## **Best Practice- Nursing Home:**

### **Rose Manor, Durham County**

This award is given to recognize a North Carolina nursing home that has implemented a unique evidence-based practice that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for its residents and promoted dignity in the delivery of care.

## **Best Practice-Adult Care Home:**

### **The Haven & The Laurels in Highland Creek, Mecklenburg County**

This award is given to recognize a North Carolina adult care home that has implemented a unique evidence-based practice that has significantly enhanced the quality of life for its residents and promoted dignity in the delivery of care.

## **Community Advisory Committee Award:**

### **Wake Nursing Home CAC, Wake County**

This award is given to recognize the work of a Long Term Care Community Advisory Committee that is fulfilling its legislative intent. Specifi-

cally, a committee that is working to maintain the intent of the Bill of Rights, serves as a nucleus for increased community interaction with facilities, promotes communication, education, and awareness of long-term care issues, and assists persons with grievances and facilitates resolutions.

## **Members' Choice Award:**

### **Blenda Braswell, Johnston County**

In recognition of outstanding individual or organization that exemplifies service/care for the elderly. Recognizing those who have gone the extra mile in their work.

## **Legislative Advocacy Award:**

### **The Honorable Beverly Earle**

This award is given to a legislator or legislators who have demonstrated their commitment to quality of care through policy development, advocacy for funding to support current and future initiatives aimed at improving quality of care, and most important, their willingness to advocate publicly for long term care residents in policy and budget deliberations.

## **Long Term Care Media Advocacy Award:**

### **Eric Frazier, Charlotte Observer**

This award recognizes outstanding media coverage and excellence in journalism, giving a public voice to those adults in NC who cannot live independently, and for those who care for them.

