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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY ANNOUNCES THE 2014 LONG-TERM CARE QUALITY SERVICE AWARD WINNERS

ORANGE COUNTY, NC (September 17, 2014)—On Tuesday, September 16, Orange County recognized Acorn Home Care Services, Inc., Carol Woods Retirement Community, and Livewell Assisted Living, Inc. for developing and implementing innovative approaches supporting high levels of quality care in long-term care.

All three organizations were honored at the Orange County Board of County Commissioners meeting on the 16th. Commissioner, Barry Jacobs, the director of the Orange County Department on Aging, Janice Tyler, and Donna Prather, member of the Advisory Board on Aging presented the 2014 Long-term Care Quality Service Award to the winners.

“We are grateful for these leaders in the long-term care industry,” said Tyler. “We want to publicly acknowledge their willingness to try new, promising care practices and management strategies that serve as a model for other facilities and organizations providing important services to some of Orange County’s most vulnerable citizens.”

As part of the Orange County 2012-17 Master Aging Plan, The Department on Aging was asked to develop a mechanism to help increase the quality of care provided in Orange County’s long-term care facilities and home care organizations. In 2013, the Advisory Board on Aging created the Orange County Long-term Care (LTC) Learning Collaborative to bring administrators and direct-care staff together to learn about and share successful approaches to quality care.

LTC organizations attended a series of seminars in the summer of 2013 which focused on two areas 1) activity programming and 2) administrative practices to reduce staff turn-over. These organizations were challenged to implement and evaluate the results of at least one of these practices over the coming year.

2014 Long-term Care Quality Service Award Winners:

Acorn Home Care Services, Inc.

- Individualized music program for their dementia clients, resulting in increased social engagement and cognitive skills, and reduced agitation
- Employee reward system offering merit bonuses and non-monetary supports for high quality care and good work practices

Carol Woods Retirement Community

- “Corn Shuckin’ and Bean Snappin’” project engaging all levels of resident living, utilizing local farm produce, and benefiting community nutrition programs.

Livewell Assisted Living

- Individualized daily memory stimulation program based on each residents past interests and hobbies, resulting in reduced anxiety, and wandering.

To learn more about the Long-term Care Learning Collaborative, and how you can be a part of improving the quality of care provided in Orange County, contact Janice Tyler at jt Tyler@orangecountync.gov or call 919.245.4255.

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Pictured from left to right: Award recipients from Acorn Home Care Services, Inc., Carol Woods Retirement Community and Livewell Assisted Living, Inc.

