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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Orange County announces recipients of 2020 Direct Care Worker Outstanding Service Awards**

**ORANGE COUNTY, NC** (November 9, 2020)—Orange County Department on Aging and the Senior Health Advocacy and Resource Partners of Orange County (SHARP) honored thirty-one individuals for their outstanding service in long-term care on Oct 22 during a virtual Direct Care Worker Award ceremony.

This event recognizes direct care workers (nurse aides, personal care aides, companion caregivers, etc.) who served clients in Orange County within the past year, making a difference in their clients' lives on a daily basis and in the community.

Penny Rich, chair of the Orange County Board of Commissioners, recognized all thirty-one nominees including six individuals who received the following 2020 SHARP Direct Care Worker awards:

**Longevity:** Vivian Dixon – Brookdale Meadowmont

**Rising Star:** Kim Mayorquin – Carol Woods Retirement Community

**Client Impact:** Ashley Horton – Homewatch Caregivers of the Triangle

**Going the Extra Mile:** Deborah Carmichael – Elmcroft of Hillsborough

**Leadership:** Marla Johnson – Charles House Association

**Direct Care Worker of the Year:** Joey Duffy – ACORN

Employers of the award winners were also honored at the awards ceremony, which took place at the Passmore Center in Hillsborough.

2020 SHARP Direct Care Worker awardee employers are as follows:

A Helping Hand, ACORN, Brookdale Meadowmont, Carol Woods Retirement Community, Charles House Association, Homewatch Caregivers of the Triangle, HomeInstead, Medisolutions, Right at Home of the Triangle, Senior Helpers, UNC Healthcare, and individual family caregivers.

Visit [Direct Care Worker Awards](#) or call 919.245.4253 to learn more and to view this year's awards ceremony.

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**Photo caption:** 2020 SHARP Direct Care Worker of the Year, Joey Duffy, of Acorn Home Care Services, Inc.