



T E N N E S S E E H E A L T H C A R E A S S O C I A T I O N

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MEDIA ADVISORY

EMBARGOED UNTIL NOV. 19

Decatur County Manor's Funderburk named THCA Caregiver of the Year

PARSONS, Tenn. – Amy Funderburk, a certified nursing assistant (CNA) with Decatur County Manor in Parsons, was honored Friday, Nov. 19, as the Tennessee Health Care Association's (THCA) 2010 Caregiver of the Year. In a special ceremony at Decatur County Manor, Funderburk received a plaque and vacation package from THCA along with certificates of congratulations from state Sen. Roy Herron (D-Dresden) and state Rep. Steve McDaniel (R-Parkers Crossroads).

The Caregiver of the Year award, presented by THCA annually on Nursing Home Caregiver Appreciation Day, recognizes one individual for exemplifying quality in the provision of 24-hour nursing home care to those who are chronically ill or injured, have health care needs as well as personal needs and are unable to function independently.

"Amy is an amazing caregiver," said Ron Taylor, THCA's executive director. "She has worked at Decatur County Manor for 22 years and is known for sharing strong bonds with patients. She takes time to get to know who her patients really are, and she knows their family members by name. That coupled with her helping her coworkers and neighbors sets her apart."

As a CNA, Funderburk is charged with providing direct patient care, including such things as feeding, bathing, dressing and grooming. Beyond her traditional duties, she often can be found laughing with patients, hugging them, talking with them and making their days better. And in addition to caring for her patients, Funderburk frequently helps her coworkers and neighbors in their times of need.

Funderburk also received special presentations from Encompass, First Quality Products, Gordon Food Service, HPSI, McKesson, Decatur County Manor's parent company Tennessee Health Management, and the Jackson District.

Funderburk represented the Jackson District when THCA honored Caregivers of the Year from each of its six geographical districts during the association's annual Convention & Trade Show in Knoxville in August. The other district honorees were:

- Memphis District, Elizabeth Scott, CNA, St. Peter Villa, Memphis;
- Nashville District, Angie Davidson, activities director, Boulevard Terrace Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, Murfreesboro;
- Chattanooga District, Bobbie Sutton, assistant director of activities, Life Care Center of East Ridge;
- Knoxville District, Eunice Dalrymple, activities assistant, Heritage Center Nursing Care, Morristown; and
- East Tennessee District, Margaret Ferrell, dietary cook, Hermitage Health Center, Elizabethtown.

Caregivers were recognized Nov. 19 at nursing facilities across the state as part of Nursing Home Caregiver Appreciation Day. Gov. Phil Bredesen commemorated the special day in a proclamation.

Decatur County Manor is a member of the Tennessee Health Care Association, a nonprofit organization whose members include long-term care facilities located throughout the state. For more information, contact THCA at (615) 834-6520 or visit www.thca.org.

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To learn more about Tennessee nursing homes, go to THCA's website at www.thca.org.