



Representing home and community-based care

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November 16, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HCP Honors Its 2009 Heroes in the Home

*Awards recognize dedicated home care workers who
have gone above and beyond the call of duty*

Editor's Note: This news release recognizes outstanding home care workers from New York City and Western New York. If you are interested in writing a more in-depth story on either award winner, please contact HCP's Assistant Director for Public Policy & Communications, Travis Wattie at 518/463-1118, ext. 832 or wattie@nyshcp.org.

East Greenbush, NY - The New York State Association of Health Care Providers, Inc. (HCP) is pleased to recognize its 2009 Heroes in the Home™ Mary Ann DiGirolamo, RN of New York City and Brenda Ware of Western New York.

November is National Home Care and Hospice Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the countless contributions of dedicated home care workers who provide exceptional care to patients every day in home and community-based settings across the nation. Each year, HCP recognizes the extraordinary efforts of home care workers in New York State through HCP's Heroes in the Home™ Statewide Caregiver Recognition Program. The Heroes in the Home award is competitively awarded by HCP to professionals and paraprofessionals for the quality care they provide to patients in the home.

"There are so many home care workers deserving of being named an HCP Hero in the Home," said HCP President Phyllis A. Wang, "but Brenda and Mary Ann's stories about the exceptional care they provide to their patients are a testament to quality care that is provided on a daily basis to thousands of home care patients. HCP expresses its sincerest gratitude for all that Mary Ann, Brenda, and thousands of other home care workers do every day for New York's elderly, disabled and chronically ill."

The 2009 Professional Caregiver of the Year award winner is Mary Ann DiGirolamo, RN, Care Management Coordinator, at Metropolitan Jewish Health System in New York City. Mary Ann serves a medically frail, chronically ill, HIV positive population. She is well-educated on available resources to secure and maintain a safe environment for each and every client. She builds positive, trusting relationships with her patients, which is essential to keeping their conditions stable.

Mary Ann is not just extremely effective at her work; she is a caring and compassionate person who leads AIDS walks and even held a winter coat and boot drive when she discovered that

several of her clients needed winter clothing items. According to her colleagues, Mary Ann is an inspiration and meets challenges with calm, efficiency and good will. She is an integral part of the Metropolitan Jewish Health System team.

Brenda Ware, a Home Health Aide with the Health Association of Niagara County, Inc. (HANCI), has been named the 2009 Paraprofessional Caregiver of the Year. Reliable; a steady presence; exemplary employee; gives superior care; a loving, kind and gentle spirit; these are just some of the positive attributes assigned by others to Brenda. Brenda's commitment to her patients is unwavering.

When a patient was moved by family to an empty apartment, Brenda arrived to find the wheelchair-bound amputee unable to unpack her bags and with no food, clean clothes, pots and pans, and other essential household items. Brenda arranged to spend additional time with the patient to get her settled, securing donations and using her own resources to provide living supplies.

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HCP is a statewide trade association representing the full spectrum of home and community-based providers. Through a strong network of regional chapters and an active State office in Albany, HCP is a primary authority for the health care industry.

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