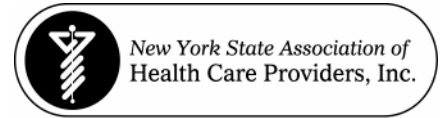




HANCI

HEALTH ASSOCIATION
OF NIAGARA COUNTY, INC.



Representing home and community-based care

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Assemblywoman DelMonte Visits Home Care Patient

Visit highlights importance and value of home care

NIAGARA FALLS, N.Y., Feb. 12, 2007 – The Health Association of Niagara County Inc. (HANCI) provides Michael Timko with the home care he needs allowing him to maintain independence in his own home. Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte (D-Youngstown) wanted to experience first-hand how home care helps her fellow residents, which is why she visited Mr. Timko at his Niagara Falls home during a home care visit.

Mr. Timko, who is 50 years old and has been wheelchair bound for the past nine years, has received care from HANCI since 1998. A home health aide visits Mr. Timko every day to provide daily living assistance such as laundry, meal preparation, bathing, dressing and light housekeeping. In addition, a nurse visits him every other day. These kinds of visits help reduce emergency room visits and hospitalizations for thousands of home care patients each year.

While visiting with Mr. Timko, DelMonte was able to see first-hand some of the services home care aides can provide for patients – services that are vital to patients who live independently.

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Governor Eliot Spitzer's newly released budget emphasizes home and community-based care as a cost-efficient source of health care in a state where spending on health care services consumes 35 percent of the state budget. Assemblywoman DelMonte is a strong supporter of home care, and this visit gave her an opportunity to see the benefits of her advocacy.

Assemblywoman Francine DelMonte said, "HANCI allows people who need assistance due to illness or disability the chance to receive treatment in the comfort of their own homes. Studies have shown that home care is a cost-effective way to provide high-quality health care services. I will support the Governor's proposal to provide patients with the care they need in community-based settings."

"We are proud to provide quality services to our clients that help them maintain their independence and dignity," said HANCI's Executive Director, John Kinner. "The superior service and personal connection that each of our aides provides to our clients promote a trusting environment that is beneficial to everyone involved."

The home care visit was arranged by the New York State Association of Health Care Providers, Inc. (HCP), a statewide trade association representing the full spectrum of home care and hospice agencies in New York.

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High-resolution photos of this event are available at www.nyshcp.org/press.