



For Immediate Release

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Governor Branstad Celebrates National Nursing Home Week at Luther Park Community

Honoring the 134,000 Iowans serving as caregivers for residents with dementia

May 16, 2016 – Des Moines, Iowa – Governor Branstad and Luther Park Community kicked off National Nursing Home Week (May 8 – 14) with a celebratory ceremony honoring nursing home residents and the nurses and health care providers that make a difference in the lives of the people they serve. Iowa ranks 13th in the nation by percentage of population age 65 and older.

“Iowa has 134,000 caregivers that care for residents with dementia,” Governor Terry Branstad said. “It is important that facilities like Luther Park Community continue to create wonderful homes and well-trained health care providers for our aging residents to receive the dignified, quality care they need.”

According to the State Data Center of Iowa and the Iowa Department on Aging, an estimated 491,349 Iowans are age 65 and over. This age group currently accounts for 15.8 percent of the total population and is growing. By 2050 an estimated 696,450 Iowans will be 65 and older making the need for quality health care and nursing services critically important to the state. Furthermore, approximately 286,000 Iowans 65 and older are living with a disability and 51,941 are having difficulty with independent living increasing the need for quality dependent and skilled care facilities across the state.



National Nursing Home week celebrates residents and the health care providers that provide quality supervision and treatment. Pictured from left to right: Carl Koedam, Nursing Home Administrator Trinity Center at Luther Park, Kellie McGriff, Director of Operations at Luther Park Community, Governor Terry Branstad, Nick Miller, Chief Executive Officer at Luther Park Community.

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Trinity Center at Luther Park Community has been serving dependent and skilled residents since 1978. Currently the Trinity Center has the capability to care for 120 residents with three dementia-specific neighborhoods. 80 percent of the Trinity Center residents have some type of dementia diagnosis and Luther Park Community team members have been specially trained in dementia care with staffing of approximately 1 caregiver to every 5 residents.



Governor Branstad celebrating National Nursing Home Week with Luther Park's Jennifer Kramme.

“We are committed to having consistent staffing and this philosophy has a tendency to bond the residents and families with staff,” said Jesse Iverson, Director of Nursing at the Trinity Center. “Our employees have been specially trained in dementia care and that shows in how we interact, provide care and affect the lives of our residents in a meaningful way.”

In closing, Governor Branstad encouraged and thanked the Luther Park leadership team for their continued

support and participation in the Governor’s Conference on Aging & Disabilities that will be held at the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines on May 23 – 26.

Nursing Home week started in 1967 by the American Health Care Association as a celebration to encourage residents, families and others to engage with their loved ones, family members, or neighbors and Luther Park Community has been participating ever since.

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