



Caregivers completes dementia care training

ESCANABA – Dementia related illness is a growing concern, reaching epidemic proportions around the world. Recently, the Alzheimer’s Association estimated that 1 in 3 seniors die with Alzheimer’s disease or another form of dementia.

To care for this exponentially expanding need, it is essential that professionals, families, and community members are educated as to the various aspects of care that an individual with dementia related illness requires, as well as the resources and inherent strengths which surround each individual.

Christian Park Health Care Center of Escanaba, a Ciena Living Facility, proved a dedication to excellence in the highest possible quality of elder care and leadership recently when 10 of its employees, including nursing, social service, and activity staff, gathered to complete training necessary to apply for certification as Certified Dementia Practitioners (CDP) through

the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners and International Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners.

Christian Park staff who completed the Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Seminar on June 5, include Joan Skrobiak, Lorrie Deiter, Kari Nordin, Debbie Sanville, Jill Deno, Carmella Cole, Cindy Liukkonen, Tracey Sliva, Christina Cary and Anna Way.

Christian Park Health Care Center is a 99-bed community in Escanaba providing short and long term skilled nursing services for over 40 years. They are the recipients of the Bronze Commitment to Quality AHCA/NCAL National Award and were recognized by U.S. News & World Report as one of the "Best Nursing Homes" in 2014.

While countless organizations exist which advertise specialized memory or dementia care services, only a few stand by these promises through ensuring staff certification.

"Dementia care is a true specialization," states Sara Socia, a licensed social worker, Certified Dementia Practitioner, and Certified Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Trainer who facilitated the June 5 intensive training in Harris. "Organizations who employ Certified Dementia Practitioners ensure that their clientele receive care by professionals with experience and education designed specifically for their comfort and well-being."

Multiple studies indicate that medical staff who are trained in dementia-specific care are notably more able to address complex issues which include pain, communication, emotional comfort, and safety. In addition to professional experience and intensive course work, CDP's are required to have ongoing continuing education in dementia care.

Individuals and organizations who would like more information on The Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Care Seminar can call Generations Wellness, LLC at (989) 745-5373 or visit www.generations-wellness.org.

For more information related to the benefits of becoming or employing a Certified Dementia Practitioner, visit www.nccdp.org.

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