



SAGE Staff Receives Dementia Certification

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the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP). For more information on SAGE, please call 908.273-5550 or visit www.sageeldercare.org. Credits: Julie Pedersen of HomeCare, and Deanna Butters, SAGE Eldercare Director of Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, pictured left to ...Credits: Julie Pedersen

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By JULIE PEDERSEN

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As part of a grant from the Head Foundation, SAGE Eldercare has been offering prerequisite courses to help staff obtain their Certified Dementia Practitioner (CDP) certification from the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP).

The courses have been led by SAGE employees, Ellisa Lee, RN, BS, CDP, Director of HomeCare, and Deanna Butters, MAOM, CDP, Director of Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center, who have both received their CDP certification from the NCCDP, including trainer certification.

"We are fortunate to have received a grant from the Head Foundation so that we can offer prerequisite courses to our staff who help and support older adults with dementia. Following the training, attendees submitted applications to receive their CDP certification," noted Ellisa Lee. "It's very beneficial to our certified home health aides (CHHA) and Spend-A-Day (SPAD) staff employees who are often assisting clients with dementia."

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"Additionally, it's a benefit to the families that our staff serves. Families can be assured that SAGE is providing training to its front-line caregivers so that local seniors who have dementia receive the best care possible," added Deanna Butters.

This spring, nearly twenty SAGE Home Health Aides and staff received training and completed coursework to obtain their CDP certification. The employees who have received their certification to date are: Beverly Evans (SPAD Program Assistant; Summit), Marie Francois (CHHA; Elizabeth), Angelita Garcia (CHHA; Elizabeth), Donna Gillens (CHHA; East Orange), LaReene Heath (CHHA; Summit), Wende Holmes (CHHA; Irvington), Marianne Kranz (Director of Home Support Services and Volunteers; Fanwood), Stephanie Kresch (Director of Community Relations; Short Hills), Estella Lai (Finance and Administration Coordinator; Livingston), Brenda Lee (CHHA; Scotch Plains), Jenna Leone (Receptionist; South Orange), Darriera Pigott (HomeCare Nurse; West Orange), Diana Roscoe (SPAD Activities Coordinator; Union), Bonnie Schechter (SPAD Recreation and Outreach Manager; Edison), Stacey Siddon (CHHA; East Orange), Pat Stelmach (GPS Care Navigator; Randolph), Marguerite Stewart (SHIP volunteer; Summit), Venita Stewart (CHHA; Hillside), and Svetlana Vechero (CHHA; Summit). In addition, SAGE held a class on Saturday, July 13 and an additional eleven attendees have submitted their CDP applications which will be reviewed for certification within the next few weeks.

National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners (NCCDP) was formed in 2001 by a group of professionals with varying work and personal experiences in the field of dementia care. Their goal is to promote standards of excellence in dementia and Alzheimer's education. A CDP certification reflects a commitment on the part of the front line staff, health care professional and organization to provide a quality of care to their dementia patient(s).

SAGE Eldercare is a unique community resource that offers a comprehensive array of programs and services for older adults and caregivers, promoting independence and quality of life. Founded in 1954, SAGE is one of the few non-profit eldercare agencies in the United States, and the oldest in New Jersey, that offers a broad and comprehensive array of services under one roof that assist elderly, often frail, adults to remain independent in their own homes.

Programs at SAGE Eldercare include: HomeCare; Meals On Wheels; Spend-A-Day Adult Day Health Center; GPS (Guidance, Planning and Support) Services; InfoCare free information and referral service; Fall Prevention Initiative; Home Repair Service; Grocery Shopping and Errand Service; Bill Paying Service; Holistic Living Services; Alzheimer's and PREP caregiver support groups; Community Education; and Union County Medicare SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program). In addition, SAGE has operated a Furniture Restoration Workshop, run by volunteers who specialize in caning and rushing chairs and refinishing furniture, and a Resale Shop for more than 50 years. Both provide essential funding that supports the organization's programs and services for older adults in the community.

SAGE Eldercare serves 7,000 people throughout Union, Essex, Morris and Somerset Counties, as well as across the United States. For more information, call 908.273.5550 or visit

www.sageeldercare.org.

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