



Indiana Health Care Association Announces 2019 Senior Living Award Winners

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. (August 19, 2019) - The Indiana Health Care Association/Indiana Center for Assisted Living (IHCA/INCAL) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2019 Senior Living Awards. IHCA/INCAL's Senior Living Award program recognizes professionals in nursing facilities and assisted living communities across the state of Indiana for their exemplary contribution and unwavering commitment to delivering quality care. Award winners are selected from peer and colleague nominations.

2019 Senior Living Award recipients:

- Long Term Care Facility of the Year: The Laurels of DeKalb, Laurel Health Care Company (Butler, Indiana).
- Assisted Living Community of the Year: Brownsburg Meadows, American Senior Communities (Brownsburg, Indiana).
- Administrator of the Year: Steve Tanner, Greenwood Healthcare Center, CommuniCare Health Services (Greenwood, Indiana).
- Nurse of the Year: Michelle Gardner, Golden LivingCenter – Fountainview Terrace, Golden LivingCenters (LaPorte, Indiana).
- Certified Nurse Assistant of the Year: Angie Hachmeister, Brookside Village, CarDon & Associates (Jasper, Indiana).
- Facility Team Member of the Year: Rita Hopper, Mitchell Manor, Life Care Centers of America (Mitchell, Indiana).

The Laurels of DeKalb is a CMS five-star rated facility and has received a Silver Quality Award from the [American Health Care Association \(AHCA\)](#) this year. The center has also successfully achieved five consecutive deficiency free surveys from the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and has been awarded a number one ranking through AHCA's Top Line Report in Indiana since 2017. The Laurels of DeKalb's dedicated team is actively engaged in improving clinical outcomes for their residents and is embracing the "Laurel way" of exceeding expectations by delivering compassionate care to their guests and residents every day.

The Brownsburg Meadows Assisted Living Community's team is providing person-centered care to its residents by cultivating positive relationships and an environment of trust. The center offers Virtual Dementia Training to staff as well as to families to help them gain a better understanding of what someone living with Alzheimer's or Dementia experiences on a daily basis. Residents enjoy a maintenance-free lifestyle and participate in a variety of activities that are carefully planned to keep them engaged.

The staff at Greenwood Healthcare Center describe Steve Tanner as a compassionate leader and a change maker with a depth of excellence. He is a true leader who leads by example and is known for his facility-first attitude. The senior leadership attribute the low turnover rate of the center to Steve's

leadership. The center has also earned three deficiency free surveys under his leadership and has become the preferred provider of the southside of Indianapolis. Staff consider him a role model and are constantly inspired by his tireless efforts of creating unique experiences for the residents at the Greenwood Healthcare Center.

Michelle Gardner has been with the Golden LivingCenter – Fountainview for 37 years and of that, has worked in the Alzheimer's Care unit for 21 years. She displays strong clinical skills and has an extraordinary ability to make the residents feel like they're at home. Residents admire her lively personality and calm demeanor, and her colleagues say she is a great team player who is committed to providing the highest quality of life for the residents.

Angie Hachmeister has been a CNA since 1990 and loves taking care of her residents with utmost dedication and compassion. She continually delivers person-centered care by learning about her resident's preferences and getting to know them on a personal level. As a CNA preceptor, Angie also mentors new CNAs in the facility. Her colleagues say she is a natural leader and her commitment to quality care is an inspiration for everyone at Brookside Village.

Rita Hopper has held the housekeeping supervisor position at Mitchell Manor for 39 years and has been a key driver of excellence for both herself and the environmental services team. She is passionate about keeping the facility spotless and this led her to proactively implement an in-house carpet shampooing schedule to ensure carpeted areas remain fresh and free from spills or stains. Her colleagues say she is an asset to the facility and attribute zero attrition in the housekeeping department to her superior leadership skills and ability to retain a loyal team.

"I commend this year's winners for this incredible achievement and take great pride in spotlighting their years of hard work, leadership, and relentless drive to enhance resident experiences every day, said IHCA/INCAL President Zach Cattell. "It is a privilege to honor these role models of our sector, both individuals and teams, for their commitment to excellence and dedication to making a positive impact on the lives of the residents they serve."

Recipients of the 2019 Senior Living Awards will be honored during the association's annual Convention & Expo on Monday, September 16 at the JW Marriott Indianapolis.

IHCA/INCAL is the state's largest trade association and advocacy group representing for-profit and not-for-profit nursing homes, as well as assisted living communities and Independent Living. The association provides education, information, and advocacy for health care providers, consumers, and the workforce on behalf of its more than 440-member facilities.

For additional information about the Senior Living Awards and the 2019 recipients, contact Deeksha Kapoor, director of communications at dkapoor@ihca.org