

CARE PROVIDERS OF MINNESOTA



CARE PROVIDERS OF MINNESOTA

2026 RECOGNITION PROGRAM

we understand the power of recognition

NOMINATIONS ACCEPTED **MARCH 23-MAY 1, 2026**

Care
Providers
of Minnesota

CHECK OUT THESE OPPORTUNITIES TO RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING PEOPLE AND PROGRAMS

HOW TO NOMINATE:

1. Go to www.careproviders.org/awards
2. Click on the nominate button located under each award description

Three things to keep in mind:

1. All entries become the property of Care Providers of Minnesota
2. The Recognition Committee reserves the right to transfer nominations to other categories.
3. **All award nominations MUST BE RECEIVED by 11:59 PM • MAY 1, 2026**

Award criteria/general questions: contact Lisa Foss Olson at lolson@careproviders.org or 952-851-2483.

THE BASICS...EASY AS 1, 2, 3!

1

BROWSE

Browse through the categories and read the criteria carefully to ensure the best fit for your nominee.

2

GATHER

Gather all the information BEFORE you apply— incomplete nominations are invalid.

3

NOMINATE

And don't stop at one! There is no limit to the number of nominations you can send; however, an individual may only be nominated for one award; please review award criteria to determine which award best suits your nominee.

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Our national Associations (AHCA/NCAL) also offer awards for which you can apply. Check them out on page 12. AHCA/NCAL award winners may select one individual to attend the AHCA/NCAL Convention in Las Vegas, NV as their guest. The winners and their guests will each receive roundtrip airfare from their home city, per diem (\$100 perperson per day), hotel accommodations for two nights, and Convention registration.

IT'S TIME TO SPOTLIGHT THE BEST

- **MARCH 23 | Care Providers of Minnesota 2026 awards program begins**
- **MAY 1 | Nominations due**
- **NOVEMBER 9–11, 2026 | Awards presented at Care Providers of Minnesota's annual Convention & Exposition at the Mystic Lake Event Center**

CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR AWARD

THROUGH RAIN, SLEET, OR SNOW—YOU DELIVER CARE

The **Caregiver of the Year Award** honors a nursing aide (CNA/TMA/HHA/NAR) who displays extraordinary skill in caring for individuals residing in a care setting.

Eligible nominees: Any nursing facility, assisted living, home care, or hospice member.

Award criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. How your nominee is a fabulous caregiver, exceeding what is expected of him/her
2. Specific examples of your nominee's exceptional skill in caring for others
3. Specific examples of your nominee exhibiting empathy and respect towards others in the care setting
4. Specific examples of how your nominee promotes dignity

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why he/she is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

Find out more www.careproviders.org/Awards

Apply now:

<https://www.emailmeform.com/builder/form/ebk4doLIJcyeS80j>



CONGRATULATIONS

Nancy Westphal, Nursing Assistant
Whispering Creek

2025 Caregiver of the Year award recipient

DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD

CELEBRATING A CAREER IN CARING

The **Dedicated Service Award** celebrates longevity in the senior care profession! This award recognizes any employee whose service over the course of his/her career—a minimum of 20 years— has positively enhanced the quality of life for individuals in a care setting. The employee’s efforts demonstrate a commitment to their organization and the care-providing profession.

Eligible nominees: Any nursing facility, assisted living, home care, hospice, corporate, or business partner member.

Award criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. Why your nominee deserves to be this year’s DEDICATED SERVICE AWARD recipient
2. Your nominee’s career and achievements/highlights/years of service in this profession
3. Specific examples of how your nominee has enhanced the quality of life for individuals he/she has served
4. Participation in the programs, activities, or initiatives at his/her workplace, Care Providers of Minnesota, or other organizations serving the care-providing profession

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why he/she is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Judy Wander, Ward Clerk
Paynesville Health Care Center

2025 Dedicated Service award recipient

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD

YOU'RE SIMPLY THE BEST, BETTER THAN ALL THE REST

The **Employee of the Year Award** recognizes an employee for his/her contributions that has improved the quality of life for residents/clients/tenants and/or enhanced the working environment for coworkers.

Eligible nominees: **Any NON-CLINICAL employee*** nominated by any nursing facility, home care, assisted living, or business partner member.

****A non-clinical employee is an individual who works in dietary, maintenance, business office, HR, housekeeping, laundry, social worker, chaplain, activities, etc.***

Award criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. Why your nominee deserves to be this year's EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR AWARD recipient
2. Specific examples of how your nominee has demonstrated exceptional skill in their role
3. Specific examples of how your nominee has improved the quality of life for those receiving care or the working environment for coworkers
4. Specific examples of employee's initiative, commitment, and caring—why are they the best of the best

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why he/she is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Kendra Petersen, RN Memory Care Coordinator & CNA
Instructor
Lakewood Health System Care Center

2025 Employee of the Year award recipient

LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

BEST BOSS EVER!

The **LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD** recognizes the achievements of an individual at the senior leadership level (administrator/executive director/housing manager) for his/her leadership contributions and skills.

Eligible nominees: Any nursing facility, assisted living, home care member.

Award criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. Why your nominee deserves to be this year's LEADER OF THE YEAR award recipient
2. Specific examples of how this individual is valued as a leader in your organization
3. Specific examples of how the nominee teaches or demonstrates skills that are practical and relevant to the profession
4. Specific examples of how the nominee motivates and inspires leaders and caregivers to improve quality and excellence
5. Specific examples of how the nominee has influenced others to excellence

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why he/she is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Juliana Lundberg, Administrator
The North Shore Estates

2025 Leader of the Year award recipient

NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

YOU DESERVE 365 DAYS OF PTO, BUT HERE'S AN AWARD INSTEAD!

The **Nurse of the Year Award** honors an individual who displays extraordinary nursing skills in caring for individuals residing in a care facility/senior care.

Eligible Nominees: **Any qualified nurse (RN/LPN) nominated by any nursing facility, assisted living/home care member.**

Award Criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. Why your nominee deserves to be the NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARD recipient
2. Specific examples of your nominee's exceptional skill in caring for others
3. Specific examples of your nominee demonstrating outstanding compassion, joy, supervisory success, achievement, and capabilities in his/her provision of high-quality, person-centered care
4. How your nominee contributes to quality improvement and clinical outcomes

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why he/she is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Karen Tadesse, Senior Living Clinical Services RN
Ridge View Esates Assisted Living

2025 Nurse of the Year award recipient

RISING STAR AWARD

HOLY COW! WE LIKE WHERE YOU'RE GOING

The **Rising Star Award** recognizes the contributions of an employee from any discipline—in a non-managerial role—who is new to his/her profession (**within the last 2 years**) and has made an impact in his/her years of service.

Eligible Nominees: Any nursing facility, assisted living/home care, corporate, or business partner member.

Award Criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. Why you believe your nominee deserves the RISING STAR AWARD
2. Specific examples of your nominee's achievements and 'can do' attitude
3. Specific ways your nominee has made a positive impact on the organization
4. What additional information makes your nominee a Rising Star

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why he/she is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Dani Tessmer, Resident Assistant Coach
Ecumen Oaks & Pines

2025 Rising Star award recipient

UP & COMING LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD

CELEBRATING THE NEW GENERATION OF LEADERSHIP

WELCOME TO THE CHALLENGE OF LEADERSHIP! The **Up & Coming Leader of the Year Award** recognizes an individual who is new to the leadership role (**within the last 3 years**) and whose actions show an extraordinary commitment to leadership and service.

Eligible nominees: Any nursing facility, assisted living/home care, or hospice member.

Award Criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. Why your nominee deserves to be an UP & COMING LEADER OF THE YEAR AWARD recipient
2. Specific examples of the nominee’s achievements and ‘can do’ attitude
3. Specific examples of how the nominee communicates and shares ideas effectively
4. How the nominee contributes to the profession (i.e. advocating via social media, partnering with other organizations on senior issues, etc.)

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why the nominee is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Greta Donnelly, Director of Wellness
Summit Place Senior Campus

2025 Up & Coming Leader of the Year award recipient

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

INDIVIDUALS WHO GIVE FREELY OF THEIR TIME & TALENTS

Volunteers freely give of their time and talents—with no expectation of recognition. The **Volunteer of the Year Award** recognizes a youth, adult, or group of volunteers who have made contributions to the quality of life for residents/tenants/clients or family members, or to the working environment for staff.

Eligible Nominees: A volunteer/volunteers at any member organization.

Award Criteria—please describe (in 1,000 words or less) the following:

1. Explain why your nominees deserve to be this year's VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD recipient
2. Length of service; how, when, and why he/she/they began volunteering
3. Activities and contributions to improve the quality of life for residents/tenants/clients or the working environment for staff
4. Any other praise/stories that make this individual/group of volunteers exceptional

Supporting documents: Please include two additional documents that support why he/she is deserving of this award. These documents should be from sources other than the nominator (i.e., from peers, the organization, residents, tenants, clients, other staff, family members, etc.).

Please note: If your nominee is selected, you will need to provide photos of your nominee for promotion and for the award presentation at Convention.

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CONGRATULATIONS

Bernie Dulas, Volunteer
Heritage Pointe Senior Living

2025 Volunteer of the Year award recipient