

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2007 *Vision Award* to St. Joseph's Candler Home Healthcare – Hinesville

(ATLANTA, Ga.) – The 2007 *Vision Award* will be presented to St. Joseph's/Candler Home Health Care, Hinesville.

GMCF congratulates St. Joseph's/Candler Home Health Care, Savannah and VNA of Cordele – the two runners-up. St. Joseph's/Candler, Hinesville, also was a finalist for the 2006 award.

This honor was created to recognize quality care given by Georgia home health agencies and is offered through the efforts of The Georgia Association for Home Health Agencies, Inc. (GAHHA) and GMCF.

“The home health agencies in the state of Georgia have done an excellent job of improving the publicly reported measures. We at GMCF have been privileged to work with such a dedicated group,” said Michelle Nelson, GMCF Home Health Project Coordinator. “The commitment for GMCF and GAHHA is to recognize agencies that have exemplified a visionary quality improvement program. This year as last year, all three finalists demonstrated a flourishing quality improvement program. Congratulations to St. Joseph's/Candler, Hinesville for exemplifying a visionary commitment to continuous quality improvement.”

Judges first selected finalists from home health agencies that have equaled or exceeded the state average in at least seven of 10 publicly reported quality measures. GMCF representatives conducted site visits at the three finalists in May.

“Home Health Agencies throughout Georgia have been impressive in their diligence toward improving outcomes in patient care,” said Mari Lou Keberly, GMCF Home Health Consultant. “During our on-site visits, the dedication of both leadership and staff toward these goals was evident.”

The award will be presented at the GAHHA Annual Meeting June 18-20, at the King and Prince Beach & Golf Resort on St. Simon's Island.

GMCF, the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO) for Georgia, works with providers to promote the adoption and use of health information technology, to help redesign care processes to be more effective and efficient, and to share best practices. GMCF assists Georgia home health agencies in keeping more patients in their homes, resulting in fewer acute

care hospitalizations and improved outcomes. GMCF strives to see that every person receives "the right care every time."

GAHHA provides direction, purpose, education, and leadership to these agencies, while promoting and supporting high industry standards for home care providers in Georgia.

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