



For Immediate Release
July 14, 2008

Contact: Camille C. Purdie
(248) 426-6904

Botsford Commons Senior Living Center Residents Receive Volunteer of the Year Award

Michigan Center for Assisted Living Will Honor Residents

Botsford Commons Senior Community announced that the residents of the Senior Living Center have been recognized with an award for Volunteer of the Year.

The 2008 Volunteer of the Year Award is given out by the Michigan Center for Assisted Living (MCAL) based on submissions from their members. The residents of Botsford Commons volunteer for numerous causes including: women's shelters, Adopt-A-Family, wounded soldiers and children's programs.

"Every year MCAL recognizes a volunteer for their dedication and service to others," said Linda Lawther, president/CEO of MCAL. "This year we are pleased to recognize the residents of Botsford Commons for the positive impact they are having on their community. Through a wide variety of programs, the residents have shown they made a difference in enhancing the lives of others."

Margaret K. Lightner, Chief Operating Officer for Botsford Commons, is proud that the residents are receiving this special recognition.

"Even at the age of 88 or 92, our residents continue to be part of the community through a variety of community service projects. Whether they are making pillows to comfort children displaced from their home, teaching elementary school children to make scarves for the needy (and setting an example of stewardship), or writing letters to wounded soldiers, the residents of Botsford Senior Living Center continue to share of themselves by making positive contributions to their community," Lightner said. It is wonderful to see them recognized and honored for their giving spirit."

Winners will be recognized Sept. 23 at an awards luncheon held in conjunction with the Michigan Center for Assisted Living's annual convention at the Soaring Eagle Resort and will also be participating in the Founder's Day Parade in Farmington on Saturday, July 19.

For Immediate Release
March 2, 2009

Contact: Camille C. Purdie
(248) 426-6904

Botsford senior citizens 'soak up love' from area students

Botsford Continuing Care Center residents will receive an extra dose of love on Wednesday, March 4 when students from a local church youth group will bring cuddly creatures infused with affection to the Farmington Hills facility.

The Senior High Youth Club from First United Methodist Church in Northville will bring 150 teddy bears to the residents, who live within the Botsford Commons Senior Community, as part of a decade-long annual project.

"Our residents just light up when they arrive," said Suzanne Lipar, recreation coordinator. "They love when students visit, and the stuffed animals are so thoughtful."

While teddy bears have long been symbols of comfort, these are no ordinary bears. Every February, the new teddy bears are donated by parishioners who bring them to church. Special tags inscribed with inspirational messages are later added.

"They sit among us in the pews, soaking up the love of God and our parishioners," said Heather Wallas, the church's Christian education director. "Our congregation loves to be a part of it, adding hugs and their own special wishes to each bear."

She added that while the stuffed animals are special, they really serve as a conduit, and starting point between the residents and students. While the teens may be a bit timid about visiting a nursing home initially, by the end of the visit they have reaped rewards as well.

"Students now look forward to this project every year," Wallas said. The interplay between generations is an important part of the project. Often, teens without exposure to the elderly population cannot fully comprehend their lives, what they have seen and done.

"They get a glimpse of what aging is, and through this project, gain an understanding and respect for their elders," Wallas said. "It's gratifying for them to see how much comfort they bring to people who are recovering from an illness, are a bit lonely or just need an extra dose of love."

Lipar agreed, noting that the mutual benefits these types of projects can have.

"After their visits, students often see them more as people who have lived extraordinary lives and have much to share," Lipar said. "Our seniors are such a valuable source of wisdom for our community, and this project allows them to share that."

Botsford Commons Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors. Located on a 30-acre campus in Farmington Hills, the Community offers a full continuum of care for the area's senior population including short stay rehabilitation, privately owned condominiums, senior apartments and assisted living suites. For more information visit the website at: www.botsfordcommons.org.

Botsford Commons Senior Community is a non-profit corporation providing housing and service options for seniors. Located on a 30-acre campus in Farmington Hills, Michigan, the Community offers a full continuum of care for the area's senior population that offers short stay rehabilitation services, privately owned condominiums, and rental options for senior apartments and assisted living suites. Botsford Commons Senior Living Center was recently awarded the Level II Quality Seal from the National Center for Assisted Living (NCAL). For more information visit the website at: www.botsfordcommons.org.

Michigan Center for Assisted Living is a statewide association representing Homes for the Aged, Adult Foster Care, Housing with Services Communities, and Independent Senior Housing Providers in Michigan, promoting the highest quality of person centered care and leadership principals. MCAL is also a resource for consumer education and information. Contact MCAL by calling 517.627.1561 or by email at lindalawther@michcal.com.

###