



Sept. 10, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Audra Watson of The Laurels of Bon Air Named Virginia Social Worker of the Year in a Skilled Nursing Facility

Veteran social worker chosen from a group of 175 submissions

RICHMOND, Va. – Audra R. Watson, director of social services for The Laurels of Bon Air, was recently named Virginia Social Worker of the Year in a Skilled Nursing Facility by CareAdvantage and the American Heart Association.

Watson was presented with the award in front of an audience of fellow social workers, case managers and healthcare professionals at the Social Worker Circle of Care Awards at The Jefferson Hotel in Richmond, Va. The award is given annually to an individual who has made a demonstrable difference in the care of a patient or person needing services while also abiding by the Social Work Code of Ethics and contributing a positive image for the social work profession. Watson was named the winner from a group of 175 submissions.

“We are very fortunate to have Audra on our team,” The Laurels of Bon Air administrator Ryan Koeniger said. “She is a tireless advocate for our guests and is always searching for the best solutions and resources for their needs. We are very proud of her and are thrilled with this tremendous accomplishment.”

As director of social services for The Laurels of Bon Air, Watson is charged with establishing and implementing the overall policies and goals for the social services department while adhering to state and federal regulations. She is responsible for patient assessments, care planning and helping residents and families adjust to their new environment. Additionally, she provides information to resident/responsible parties as to Medicare/Medicaid and other financial assistance programs.

Watson, a licensed mental health professional, joined The Laurels of Bon Air in early 2019 and has spent the past two years working in the long-term care industry. She has almost 10 years of experience in social work to her name, including past roles in crisis stabilization and community mental health.

“I didn’t pick this profession for acknowledgement, but it is very rewarding to be recognized for all the hard work put into helping others,” Watson said of her recognition. “Not every day will be good but there is something good in every day!”

Along with her award, Watson also received a letter of commendation from Senator Mark R. Warner (D – Va.) in recognition of her accomplishment. In part, the letter read:

“This honor recognizes your exemplary dedication to your profession and the clients that you serve. You work tirelessly in order to ensure that your clients have access to the care and resources that they need. These efforts make an immeasurable difference in their lives and the lives of their families. I commend you for your service, tenacity, and compassion.”

Watson, a native of Ohio, resides in the Richmond area.

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ABOUT THE LAURELS OF BON AIR

The Laurels of Bon Air is 124-bed skilled nursing facility in Richmond, Va., featuring 44 private rooms and 80 semi-private rooms. The Laurels of Bon Air offers a positive, caring environment for both short-term and long-term guests.

ABOUT LAUREL HEALTH CARE COMPANY

Laurel Health Care Company is a national provider of skilled nursing, rehabilitation, sub-acute and assisted living services. With more than 40 locations in five states – Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, North Carolina and Virginia – LHCC is dedicated to achieving the highest standards of care and caring for its guests and their families.



AUDRA WATSON, VIRGINIA SOCIAL WORKER OF THE YEAR IN A SKILLED NURSING FACILITY, PICTURED OUTSIDE OF THE LAURELS OF BON AIR IN SEPTEMBER.