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Photo attached; also available by contacting Jenny Mims at [jmims@mhha.com](mailto:jmims@mhha.com)

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### **Clearwater Suites' Norma Jean Peyman Honored as Caregiver of the Year**

Norma Jean Peymann was honored with the Caregiver of the Year Award presented by Gov. Tim Pawlenty and bestowed by the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance (MHHA) at a ceremony in Minneapolis on Feb. 6. Peymann works at Clearwater Suites of Alexandria.

Her dedication, loyalty and, particularly, her "ability to understand not only the physical challenges of the residents for whom she cares but also their hearts and minds" were commended during the presentation.

A video about Peymann's caregiving skills featured coworkers and residents who praised her optimistic view, sense of humor and deep devotion to bringing quality of life to each person at Clearwater Suites.

As Clearwater Vice President Nancy Patock commented, "She takes getting to know the residents to a new level. Norma Jean knows and understands what they may be experiencing, thinking, hoping and needing."

One Clearwater Suites resident was quoted as saying, "There are only so many angels on earth, and Norma is one of them." Another person, a daughter of a past resident, told of her experiences as a family member concerned about her mother's care. "Norma Jean loves each resident as if they were her mom or dad. She goes above and beyond in so many ways. When my dad and then my mom were spending their last days in the hospital, she not only came to visit them and say good bye, but she insisted on staying and relieving us at the hospital, and also took us away for a good meal. I have never met or encountered another caregiver who sets a higher standard of love and care for our elderly loved ones."

The award was presented at the 2008 MHHA Institute for Older Adult Services, the state's largest gathering of professionals working in care centers, assisted living settings and related services. The event drew more than 3,000 people to the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Minneapolis under the theme "Building Blocks: Creating the Future of Aging Services." It focused on workforce issues, transforming aging services to meet the needs of a growing population of older Minnesotans and building public trust.

Over the three-day event, members of MHHA also honored volunteers, organizational trustees, professional leaders, innovative practices, mission-driven service and community service. For more about MHHA, including consumer resources for choosing older adult services, go to [www.mhha.com](http://www.mhha.com).

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