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### **Perham Memorial Home Honored for Mission-driven Work**

Perham Memorial Home was honored with the Living Our Mission Award by the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance (MHHA) at a ceremony in Minneapolis on Feb. 9. Administrator Chuck Hofius accepted the award on behalf of the organization in front of a crowd 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 MHHA Living Our Mission Award honors organizations who demonstrate their commitment to their stated missions. Perham Memorial Home was recognized as a great example of how a mission statement can permeate an entire organization, from top to bottom, and drive a culture of excellence. At the Perham Memorial Home, the mission is to create the environment of home for individuals receiving the services of a comprehensive care center.

As one of the first facilities in Minnesota to identify a new model of care and design a building around that model, the Perham home combined new construction with remodeling of an existing building to create households where residents have choice and control over decisions.

Hofius explains, "Residents and staff know each other as friends and work together to create meaningful care and life in their households. We can now demonstrate that the changes have not only enhanced the residents' quality of life, but improved their health as well."

The transformation benefits not just the residents but their families, staff and the community of Perham. Every day, you'll find children in the home, visiting their reading buddies, playing games, enjoying movies or bingo, and making friends. Community spirit prevails in other way, such as when the residents participate in the high school homecoming parade, go to the county fair or hopping into the special trailer that a volunteer pulls with a golf cart to take trips all over town.

Hofius added: "At Perham Memorial Home we live our mission every day as the residents, their families and staff work together to create a home where quality of care and quality of life are equally important to all."

The MHHA Institute for Older Adult Services 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 caregivers, volunteers, organizational trustees, professional leaders, innovative practices and community service.

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