

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Photo attached; also available by contacting Jenny Mims at jmims@mhha.com

For more information, contact: XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Dawn Moyer is 'Trustee of the Year'

Dawn E. Moyer of Elk River was presented with the Trustee of the Year Award by the Minnesota Health and Housing Alliance (MHHA) at a ceremony in Minneapolis on Feb. 6 in honor of her many years of service on the board of Guardian Angels of Elk River

A large audience filling the ballroom of the Hyatt Hotel saw a video presentation about Moyer's service to Guardian Angels, which dates back to 1975. It was then that Moyer, already passionate about helping others through her role as a teacher and principal, was elected to serve on the Guardian Angels board of directors.

MHHA is the state's largest association of older adult services professionals, composed of 800-plus organizations and their employees, including Guardian Angels. Gathered for their large annual Institute for Older Adult Services, MHHA members heard about Moyer's dedication to the care center and how it expanded after she entered Guardian Angels to recover from surgery. With her guidance, Guardian Angels subsequently began a new commitment to "person-directed care," a movement also known as "culture change" that is now transforming long-term care centers across Minnesota.

Moyer's board work included leading construction of a 28,000 square foot addition and renovations to another 20,000 square feet, which have changed Guardian Angels' 21 double rooms into 42 private rooms that now feature, among other amenities, private bathrooms and showers. The new space for Memory Care residents is divided into neighborhoods and a Transitional Care Unit is augmented by a relocated therapy suite and a new town center that benefits all Guardian Angels residents.

During Moyer's 32 year tenure, she has served on every board committee within Guardian Angels' board. She is only the fourth person to serve as board chair in the 42 year history of Guardian Angels. Her leadership has helped the organization to grow from serving approximately 200 residents and tenants in 1975 to now serving more than 1,200 older adults in a full continuum of health and housing services.

Moyer is completing her board term in 2008, however she plans to stay active by serving on the strategic planning committee, keeping a hand in helping Guardian Angels fulfill its mission to grow and serve.

The MHHA Institute convened 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, professional leaders, innovative practices, mission-driven work and community service. For more about MHHA, including consumer resources for choosing older adult services, go to www.mhha.com.

###