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For Immediate Release

Bayada Nurses Honors its Health Care "Heroes" of the Year

Moorestown, NJ – May 26, 2011 – Bayada Nurses, a national home health care company, recently honored four of its employees as 2011 health care "heroes" of the year. They were recognized as part of Bayada Nurses' *Heroes on the Home Front* program for their outstanding dedication and commitment to excellence in serving their clients. The awards were presented in front of more than 1,600 employees at Bayada Nurses' annual Awards Weekend, held in Philadelphia from May 20-22.

Bayada Nurses presents the "Hero of the Year" awards to recognize its nurses, aides, social workers, and therapists who unselfishly exceed the organization's expectations for excellence. To qualify, a nominee must embody the fundamental values of compassion, excellence, and reliability, which comprise *The Bayada Way* and define the organization's mission. The four heroes are selected from hundreds of nominations from Bayada Nurses offices across the country.

Cathy Akbari is a registered nurse from Charlotte, NC who was honored for saving the life of her five-year-old client during a home electrical fire. Trapped in an upstairs bedroom, she realized she could no longer shield the child from the flames and tossed him from the second floor window into the arms of a neighbor below. Miraculously, the child sustained only a small burn on his knee. Cathy had to be rescued by fire crews, and was hospitalized for three weeks with life-threatening injuries. According to Ali Genthner, director of the Bayada Nurses Charlotte pediatrics office, "Cathy has always displayed such compassion for our clients."

Jane Harrison, a home health aide from Philadelphia, PA, provides exceptional care, with compassion and creativity, to an elderly client who is blind and unable to walk. Since the client is no longer able to attend orchestra concerts, once her favorite pastime, Jane dresses her elegantly, sits her comfortably in her "theater chair," and plays classical recordings to her. According to the client's son, "There is no doubt that Jane's loving care has positively affected the quality of my mother's life, and I feel blessed to have such an incredible person taking care of her. "

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Licensed Practical Nurse Toni Kearns, from Lewistown, PA, was recognized for her dedication and enthusiasm toward caring for her pediatric clients, providing them with love and support. She has proven time and again that she will positively impact any client in her care. She has been known to sacrifice time with her own family to ensure that a client's family has the care they desperately need. "Toni is a great go-to nurse in any situation, challenging or otherwise," said the parent of one client. "Her approach is not only encouraging, but empowering. She cares for our son the way she would care for her own."

Barbara Sauer, a medical social worker from Denver, CO, was recognized for her professionalism, compassion, and excellence in client care – marking just the second time a medical social worker has received this award. Barbara has been described as someone who will do whatever it takes, whenever it is needed, to help a client, including helping them understand and access the community resources available to them. She has been invaluable in helping countless clients receive critically-needed services, and at the drop of a hat, she will take action to help a client in need. According to one of Bayada's Denver office directors, "She is a gem for our Denver offices and a great asset to Bayada Nurses."

Founded in 1975 by J. Mark Baiada, Bayada Nurses provides nursing, rehabilitative, therapeutic, hospice, and personal home health care services to children, adults, and seniors in the comfort of their own homes. Bayada Nurses employs over 13,000 nurses, home health aides, social workers, and therapists who work from more than 180 offices in 18 states. For more information, visit www.bayada.com. To view the inspirational stories from the Heroes, visit youtube.com/bayadanurses.

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