

West Bend awards safe patient handling equipment to Wisconsin long-term care providers

WEST BEND, WI (May 9, 2014) – West Bend Mutual Insurance Company in West Bend, WI has awarded grants to six Wisconsin long-term care providers for the purchase of safe patient handling equipment. The awards are made from an endowment established by West Bend earlier this year for the express purpose of providing state-of-the-art resident transfer equipment to Wisconsin’s long-term care provider community, including nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

The facilities receiving the equipment are Lincoln Lutheran of Racine, Marinuka Manor Nursing Home in Galesville, VMP Trinity in Milwaukee, Luther Manor in Wauwatosa, Villa St. Francis in Milwaukee, and Pigeon Falls Health Care Center in Pigeon Falls.

The transfer equipment, purchased at a discounted price from EZ Way, will protect both residents and caregivers from potential injuries. It’s used during transfer procedures that typically occur hundreds of times a day. Not only does it prevent injuries to both resident and employee, it allows a caregiver to perform a transfer safely and efficiently.

“We were simply thrilled to hear that we were chosen for this grant,” said Michelle Putz, vice president – skilled nursing communities at Lincoln Lutheran of Racine. “These additional mechanical lifts will ensure resident comfort and dignity and improve our team member safety. We thank the West Bend Charitable Grant Foundation and Leading Age Wisconsin for establishing the Safe Resident Assistance Endowment and are so pleased that we were selected for this generous grant.”

Rosemarie Thesing, administrator at Pigeon Falls Health Care Center, says the center will purchase a Hoyer lift with a scale. This device allows residents to be transferred between a bed and a chair or other similar resting place using hydraulic power. During the transfer, the patient is weighed. “We are challenged with getting accurate weights for some of our residents. This grant allows us to purchase a well-needed lift with a scale. It is absolutely wonderful that we have been given this opportunity to receive this grant.”

West Bend is a major insurer of nursing homes and assisted living facilities in the Midwest. The company has been working with LeadingAge Wisconsin to develop and implement the program as a means of giving back to the provider community.

Paul Hingtgen, vice president of Argent[®], West Bend’s workers’ compensation division, said, “The skilled care and assisted living industry is an important business segment to West Bend. Making sure patients and workers remain injury free is important to us. As such, we’ve found a way to advance West Bend’s history of charitable giving by providing the funding necessary to provide safe patient handling equipment to an industry under stress. This has been supported by our long-standing relationships with both EZ Way Manufacturing and Leading Age Wisconsin which manages the endowment.”