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ERH's Person-Centered Care wins Outstanding Project of the Year from the Association for Professionals in Aging

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Nov. 4, 2010 – The Association of Professionals in Aging (APA) has awarded its "Outstanding Project in the Field of Aging" for 2010 to Episcopal Retirement Homes' (ERH) Person-Centered Care (PCC) approach to caring for seniors. The award will be presented at a ceremony at The Madison in Covington, Kentucky on December 1.

"This is a great honor," said ERH President and CEO Doug Spittler. "Our goal with Person-Centered Care is to ensure that the seniors we serve have: freedom, choice, and purpose in their lives. Receiving recognition for doing what we do makes our work that much more rewarding."

ERH introduced the Person-Centered Care approach when the organization planned, built and opened Deupree Cottages nursing care household in Hyde Park in 2009. The concept has since spread to each of ERH's communities across southern Ohio.

Laura Lamb, ERH's vice president for residential housing and healthcare, described Person-Centered Care as taking away the fear and institutional feel and replacing it with an atmosphere of home.

"When people think of 'nursing homes' they see large nurses' stations and medicine carts in the halls," said Lamb. "But with Person-Centered Care, seniors live just as they did in their own homes as much as possible. They eat when they want, they plan meals and grocery lists, they go to bed and wake up on their schedule. In other words, they live life on their terms."

The results have been remarkable, said Lamb. "We have seen some residents with dementia change from being agitated and inaudible to calm and communicative. Residents who lost weight in traditional nursing home settings, now gain it back. What's more, family members enjoy their visits more. And staff have the opportunity to get to know residents much better and can spend time doing activities that residents have chosen.

The APA award committee looked at several criteria, including the outcome and impact of the project, what made it successful and who was impacted.

About Episcopal Retirement Homes - Episcopal Retirement Homes (ERH) is a not-for-profit, financially sound organization dedicated to improving the lives of older adults through innovative, quality living environments and older adult services delivered by highly experienced and deeply committed professionals. ERH owns and operates Cincinnati's two premier continuing care retirement communities, Marjorie P. Lee and Deupree House. ERH also owns or manages several affordable housing properties throughout Southern Ohio, including St. Paul Village in Cincinnati, Canterbury Court in West Carrollton and Cambridge Heights in Cambridge, Ohio. ERH also provides services to the community such as Parish Health Ministry, Deupree Meals on Wheels, Living Well Senior Solutions geriatric care management services. Visit episcopalretirement.com or call 513.271.9610 for more information.

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