



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

WEST BEND, WI (June 15, 2015) – West Bend Mutual Insurance Company in West Bend, Wis, in partnership with LeadingAge Wisconsin Foundation, has awarded grants to seven Wisconsin long-term care providers for the purchase of safe patient handling equipment. The awards are made from an endowment established by West Bend 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 Algoma Medical Center in Algoma, Community Health Services in Prairie Du Chien, Good Shepherd Services in Seymour, Northern Lights Services Inc. in Washburn, Vernon Manor in Viroqua, Trempealeau County Health Care Center in Whitehall, and Morrow Home Community in Sparta.

The transfer equipment 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.

“This lift will help ensure the health and safety of our residents and staff,” said Barry Metevia of Community Health Services Corporation in Prairie de Chein. “We were delighted to be chosen as one of the winners in the Safe Resident Assistance Program. West Bend’s partnership with Leading Age Wisconsin Foundation is a model for supporting the safety needs of our residents.”

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 both with EZ Way Manufacturing and Direct Supply, and the Leading Age Wisconsin Foundation which manages the endowment and awards process.”