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PRESS RELEASE

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Pond Home staff member receives Heart & Hands Award from Massachusetts Aging Services Association

WRENTHAM – **Marian Szymanski**, who typically works on the day shift as a Certified Nursing Assistant at Pond Home was honored on Thursday, October 2nd at the Annual Meeting of The Massachusetts Aging Services Association (Mass Aging) as the recipient of this year's Heart & Hands Award.

To be eligible for this award a candidate must be a member of one of the more than 160 not-for-profit aging service providers of Mass Aging in addition to being an individual who demonstrates exceptional relationships(s) with a resident(s) or client(s). The relationship should provide special enrichment and increased quality of life to the resident(s) or client(s) through efforts beyond those normally considered within the position's job description.

Marian has been a member of the Pond Home staff for just over two years, but in this relatively short period of time has demonstrated outstanding initiative by recognizing the challenges faced by some residents and subsequently helping to make their lives easier. She has been proactive by incorporating ideas learned in training programs into daily practice. By doing this she has fostered exceptional relationships with all the residents she works with and assisted other Pond Home employees in doing the same. Without question, Marian has improved the quality of life for the residents at Pond Home.

When nominating Marian for the award Pond Home Administrator Becky Annis said in part, "I feel she is most deserving of the Heart and Hands Award because she not only internalizes the challenges our residents are faced with as their abilities change, but comes up with ways to make those changes easier for them to bear. In turn this helps everyone who works and lives at Pond Home."

The nomination also included a heart felt letter from a family member of a Supportive Nursing Care Section resident, thanking Marian for the poster she put together that displayed her mother's former neighborhood in NYC. Marian did this while in NY celebrating her own daughter's birthday!

Noting it isn't just the big gestures that make Marian deserving of this award, Terri Javery, Director of Nursing at Pond Home said, "Marian has a

thoughtful style that calms and supports residents. Each day I overhear her interactions and am consistently impressed by her gentle approach.”

The Annual Meeting of Massachusetts Aging Services was held at Carlton-Willard Village in Bedford, MA. The theme of this year’s event was a tribute to the Beijing Olympics.

Pond Home, located at 289 East Street (Rte. 140) in Wrentham, offers elders long term care in a beautiful, warm setting. Pond Home is licensed by the Department of Public Health as a Residential Care Facility with a Supportive Nursing Section. As such, nursing staff are on site 24 hours per day and can provide more medical support than typical Assisted Living facilities. The entire building is handicap accessible.