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Alzheimer's Association Announces 2010 Excellence in Caregiving Award Recipients

(Cedar Rapids, IA, August 13)–The Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter hosted the 16th Annual Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Education Conference on Thursday, August 12th, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Cedar Rapids Marriott located at 1200 Collins Road NE in Cedar Rapids.

Annually, the Excellence in Caregiving Awards honors family caregivers, organizations, and professionals who serve individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias for their outstanding achievement in caregiving. The 2010 winners were announced during the luncheon of the conference by emcee, Tim Seymour, board member of the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter and morning anchor at KGAN.

Dr. Mark Wilkinson, received the **Special Service Award** for his work as a physician, humanitarian, and advocate. Dr. Wilkinson has gone above and beyond treating his patients with respect and dignity through the diagnosis and progression of Alzheimer's disease. He has impacted patients with dementia and their families as well as the medical community.

The Scottish Rite Masons – Cedar Rapids Valley, received the **Organization Award**. The Iowa Scottish Rites Masons created a trust called SMART which stands for Scottish Rite Masons Alzheimer's Research Trust and is dedicated to advancing Alzheimer's research, public awareness about Alzheimer's disease and supporting families and caregivers. Members from all parts of the state contributed \$100 or more to SMART and through additional development efforts raised an astonishing 1.3 million dollars. This year the Scottish Rite Masons – Cedar Rapids Valley expanded their commitment through the Alzheimer's Association and awarded the East Central Iowa Chapter a \$5,000 gift to help implement the core services. The Masons understand the aging demographics in our state and the threat that Alzheimer's disease poses to the community, its membership, and their families.

The **Professional Award** recipient was **Laura McCoy**, CNA at Mercy Medical Center in Hallmar, for her dedication to serving residents and their families. Laura displays a great deal of patience, compassion and respect for all residents she cares for. She provides ongoing support and communication for families faced with Alzheimer's disease and encourages a healthy lifestyle to decrease the risk of dementia.

Bob Hanson received the **Family Caregiver Award** for his dedication as a full-time caregiver for his wife, Bev, who is currently battling Alzheimer's disease. Bob and Bev continue to be active members in the community and work as a team for Iowa Realty. As a result of his efforts, Bev maintains a high level of socialization and quality of life; Bob is an inspiration to caregivers who attempt to work while still being a caregiver for someone at home with Alzheimer's disease.

For more information about the conference and the caregiver awards please visit www.alz.org/eci.

About the Alzheimer's Association:

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's research, care, advocacy and support. Our mission is to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research; to provide and enhance care and support for all affected; and to reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health. Our vision is a world without Alzheimer's. For more information visit www.alz.org/eci.