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Alzheimer's Association awards 2009 Excellence in Caregiving award recipients

(Cedar Rapids, IA, August 28)- The Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter hosted the 15th Annual Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia Education Conference on Thursday, August 13th at the Cedar Rapids Marriott. Nearly 300 professional and family caregivers attended the successful event, and learned from some of the brightest, most knowledgeable presenters in the industry.

The Excellence in Caregiving Awards presentation took place during the conference luncheon. The ceremony was presented by Debbie Jones, Board President of the Alzheimer's Association East Central Iowa Chapter and National Alzheimer's Association Board Member. 2009 award recipients included Congressman Bruce Braley, family caregivers, and professionals in the field from around Eastern Iowa.

Congressman Bruce Braley received the **Special Service Award** for spearheading an amendment to develop quality indicators for people with dementia that passed in the House Energy and Commerce Committee's health care reform bill. Currently there are no accepted quality indicators to measure the quality of care for those living with Alzheimer's and other dementias, so this amendment is truly a victory for the health care system. Tavis Hall, a representative from Congressman Braley's office, received this award on his behalf.

Susan Schultz, MD, accepted the **Organization Award** on behalf of the University of Iowa's Carver College of Medicine. Dr. Schultz is the principle investigator for the Gammaglobulin Alzheimer's Partnership (GAP) study at the University of Iowa, which is designed to evaluate the effectiveness of Gammaglobulin, an investigational drug, and whether it slows the progression of Alzheimer's disease. Dr. Schultz contributes to the scientific community by sharing information about local clinical study opportunities and ensuring each participant receives a high standard of care related to the study.

Patti Reyhons, a recreation therapist from Western Home Communities in Waterloo, received the **Professional Award** for her dedication to serving residents, both individually and collectively, by fulfilling their lives through special activities and maintaining long-term memories. Patti takes pride in what her residents accomplish and strives to maintain dignity in all that she does.

Sonya and Kenny Shippy of Waterloo both received the **Family Caregiver Award** for their devotion to caring for Sonya's mother, Bernadine, who is currently battling Alzheimer's disease. In addition to caring for Bernadine, the couple also volunteers by taking residents on outings, participating in daily activities, offering an extra set of hands as needed, and fundraising for the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk. The Shippy's dedication to Bernadine and the Lakeview Lodge family is truly inspiring, as they face Alzheimer's with compassion and courage.

About the Alzheimer's Association:

The Alzheimer's Association is the leading voluntary health organization in Alzheimer's research, care 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.

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