

## READY FOR LIFE AWARD NOMINATION INSTRUCTIONS

### **What is Care for Elders?**

Care for Elders is a partnership of more than 80 service providers, funding organizations, policy makers, businesses and community leaders dedicated to improving the quality of care and enhancing the quality of life for older adults and family caregivers in Harris County. Please visit our website at [www.careforelders.org](http://www.careforelders.org) for more information about the partnership, its work, and how you can join us.

Since its inception, Care for Elders has recognized that the quality of care, regardless of the setting, rests in the hands of the front line, direct care worker.

### **What is the “Ready for Life Award”?**

Aging is a process – it’s a part of life, and it’s filled with both challenges and blessings. No matter what age, there are things that individuals can do to enrich their lives and make sure they are ready for whatever comes their way – “ready for life”. Direct care workers are in key positions to help older adults manage the challenges they face and remain “ready for life”.

With acknowledgement and respect for this critical role, Care for Elders is proud to present the “Ready for Life Award”. Three outstanding front line workers will receive this award at the upcoming conference (March 1, 2011) and be recognized for the contributions they have made to helping their clients be “ready for life”.

### **Who is eligible for the “Ready for Life Award”?**

This award is intended to give recognition and reward to outstanding paraprofessional staff who directly serve the elderly. Nominees must be employed by an agency/ organization/facility that serve multiple clients. Certified Nurse’s Aide, Activity Assistant, Home Health Aide, and Personal Care Aide are common titles for the individuals targeted for this award. Professional staff (i.e., nurses, social workers), business owners (regardless of the degree of hands-on care they provide) and self employed individuals serving clients (i.e., private duty sitters) are not eligible for the Ready for Life Award.

### **Who can nominate someone for the “Ready for Life Award”?**

Anyone who has worked with an individual for at least one year and is knowledgeable about her/his work can submit a nomination for this award. This may include supervisors, co-workers, family members of clients, etc. While multiple nominations of the same individual are welcome, winners will NOT be selected solely based on the number of nominations received. Self-nominations are not allowed.

### **How do I nominate someone for the “Ready for Life Award”?**

You may nominate as many individuals as you like. Ideally, nomination narratives will be double-spaced and not exceed two pages; please use 12 point font and keep margins at one inch. **All nominees will be recognized for their achievement at the awards luncheon.**

**What will the winner(s) of the “Ready for Life Award” receive?**

A total of three (3) winners will be selected for recognition. Two (2) Honorable Mention Award winners will each receive a plaque and \$200. The Award winner will be presented with a plaque and \$500. All awards will be presented during the luncheon at the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for Direct Care Workers Who Care for Older Adults (April 20, 2010). **It is imperative that selected award winners be present at the event.**

**What are the criteria for the “Ready for Life Award”?**

The selection committee for the Ready for Life Award is particularly interested in hearing about those direct care workers who “serve as a role model for others” by demonstrating a commitment to the care of older adults. **Nominations MUST provide specific examples of how the individual’s work goes “above and beyond the call of duty” and/or contributes to improved client satisfaction or quality of life for those served.** In addition, please describe any specific incidents that exemplify the following qualities in the nominee:

- Demonstrates teamwork
- Maintains a positive attitude
- Is dependable
- Presents a positive image
- Demonstrates good interpersonal skills and respect and compassion for others
- Is thoughtful about, and makes recommendations for improving service quality
- Takes initiative

**Please include the following information:**

Name of Nominee  
Title  
Place of Employment  
Name of Nominator  
Relationship to Nominee  
Phone Number

**More questions?**

Please feel free to call Morgan Steinberg at 713.685.6584. **All nominations must be received by 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 2011.**

**Submit nominations to:** Morgan Steinberg  
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Houston, Texas 77025  
Email: [msteinberg@careforelders.org](mailto:msteinberg@careforelders.org)  
Fax: 713.956.2079