



VALA Diamond Awards

Sparkling Gems of the Assisted Living Industry

2024

Nomination Submission Package



- ◆ Assisted Living Administrator of the Year Award
 - ◆ Assisted Living Caregiver of the Year Award
- ◆ Assisted Living Support Staff of the Year Award
 - ◆ Assisted Living Best Practices Award

***Nominations must be received in the VALA office by
June 1, 2024***



Sponsored by the
Virginia Assisted Living Association
"Virginia's Unified Voice for Assisted Living"

The **Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA)** recognizes assisted living providers who are the ‘sparkling gems of Virginia’s assisted living industry’ with the **VALA Diamond Awards**. There are four award categories, and recipients are recognized in a special video presentation during the luncheon ceremony at the VALA Fall Conference. We applaud each of the recipients for providing outstanding care on behalf of Virginia's assisted living industry! Please join us in congratulating and thanking all VALA Diamond Award recipients!

Assisted Living Administrator of the Year Award

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ♦ 2023 Kenneth Gibson | ♦ 2015 Maryanne Lee |
| ♦ 2022 Donna Callihan | ♦ 2014 Rebecca Tacy |
| ♦ 2021 Julie Ferguson | ♦ 2013 Antonio Williams |
| ♦ 2020 Reuben Canty | ♦ 2012 Linda Bishop |
| ♦ 2019 Steve Wilkins | ♦ 2011 Ann Temple |
| ♦ 2018 Jennie Haden | ♦ 2010 Jill Sproul |
| ♦ 2017 Roslin V. Davis | ♦ 2009 Sally Sperberg |
| ♦ 2016 Benjamin Butler | |

Assisted Living Caregiver of the Year Award

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| ♦ 2023 Foday Conteh | ♦ 2016 Chevonda Thaniel |
| ♦ 2022 Pam Taylor | ♦ 2015 Francine McLeod |
| ♦ 2021 Orleen Taylor | ♦ 2014 Micah Foreman |
| ♦ 2020 Donta Briscoe | ♦ 2013 Carol Harvin |
| ♦ 2019 Mary Williams | ♦ 2012 Tonja Fletcher |
| ♦ 2019 Fred Parker | ♦ 2011 Laura Baker |
| ♦ 2018 Alice Spartzak | ♦ 2010 Martha Bishop |
| ♦ 2017 Geraldine Walton | ♦ 2009 Rebecca Tacy |

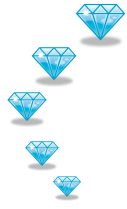
Assisted Living Support Staff of the Year Award

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| ♦ 2023 Connie Moss | ♦ 2022 Jennie Gonzales |
|--------------------|------------------------|

Assisted Living Best Practices Award

- ♦ 2023 RoseWood Village Greenbrier ~ “Veterans’ Wall of Honor”
- ♦ 2022 Harmony at Oakbrooke ~ “A Touch of Love”
- ♦ 2021 garrett Realty Partners ~ “Virtual Presentation Fridays with Micah Hunt”
- ♦ 2020 Commonwealth Senior Living ~ “Hydroponic Farming”
- ♦ 2019 Manorhouse Assisted Living ~ “Pet Therapy Program”
- ♦ 2018 The Mayflower Assisted Living ~ “Know Language Barriers”
- ♦ 2017 The Memory Center of Richmond ~ Handcrafting Kindness Program
- ♦ 2016 Greenfield Senior Living ~ Check-In Angels Program
- ♦ 2015 Commonwealth Senior Living ~ Farm to Table Dining Program
- ♦ 2014 Runk & Pratt Senior Living ~ Social Media Utilization
- ♦ 2013 American Retirement Homes ~ Helping Hands of Support
- ♦ 2012 Commonwealth Senior Living ~ One Sweet Memory
- ♦ 2010 Emeritus Senior Living ~ Home Visit Program
- ♦ 2009 Commonwealth Senior Living ~ Family Connections Program

Help us select the next *VALA Diamond Award* recipients by submitting a nomination today. Guidelines for nominations of each category are listed on the nomination forms. Please contact VALA at (804) 332-2111 should you have any questions.



Virginia Assisted Living Association

◇ VALA Diamond Awards ◇

Assisted Living Administrator of the Year Award

Nomination Form

The **Assisted Living Administrator of the Year Award** is sponsored by the Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA) and recognizes assisted living administrators who have demonstrated outstanding leadership through their dedication to the assisted living industry, to their staff, and to the residents and families they serve.

Nomination Guidelines: One award will be given annually at the awards ceremony held at VALA Fall Conference to an administrator serving in assisted living communities that is a VALA assisted living community member.

Requirements for Reference: Reference letters need to identify the nominee's qualifications based on the following criteria that will be used to evaluate candidates.

- ◆ *Goes above and beyond their job description*
- ◆ *Communicates effectively with residents, family members, staff, and community guests;*
- ◆ *Treats each resident with dignity and respect;*
- ◆ *Provides high quality person-centered care to residents;*
- ◆ *Demonstrates leadership and teamwork skills;*
- ◆ *Exhibits dedication to staff through support and encouragement of staff training and recognition;*
- ◆ *Encourages employee retention through actions and programs;*
- ◆ *Serves as a mentor and role model to staff and community volunteers;*
- ◆ *Demonstrates workplace dedication through continuous personal service;*
- ◆ *Is dedicated to improving the assisted living industry as a whole, through public outreach, legislative services, etc.; and*
- ◆ *Participates in VALA's educational and advocacy events.*

Prize Package: The winner will receive a prize package containing at a minimum: \$100 gift card, one free VALA Conference registration, VALA branded items, a certificate of recognition, and an engraved award for display.

Nominee: _____ Employment Title: _____

ALF Name: _____

ALF Address: _____

ALF Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Length of Service: In current position: _____ At ALF: _____ In Senior Living Industry: _____

Nominator: _____ Nominator Telephone: _____

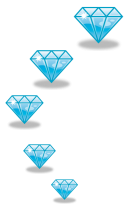
Nomination Checklist:

- ☐ Completed Nomination Form
- ☐ Nominee's Resume or listing of employment history with listing of any licenses/certifications held
(do not include copies of actual certificates or applications of employment)
- ☐ Two (2) reference letters identifying the nominee's qualifications based on the above Requirements for Reference
(may be from ALF staff members, residents, and family members of residents)

Questions? Call (804) 332-2111

Nomination Deadline: June 1

Return completed nomination forms and supporting documents to:
VALA Diamond Awards, PO Box 71266, Henrico, VA 23255
OR Facsimile: (888) 611-8252 or email to: information@valainfo.org.



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Assisted Living Caregiver of the Year Award

Nomination Form

The **Assisted Living Caregiver of the Year Award** is sponsored by the Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA) and recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding direct care services in assisted living through their interactions with residents and their family members.

Nomination Guidelines: One award will be given annually at the awards ceremony held in conjunction with the VALA Fall Conference to caregivers that are employed in assisted living communities that are VALA members. Examples of Caregivers include RNs, LPNs, CNAs, RMAs, and other direct care personnel.

Requirements for Reference: Reference letters need to identify the nominee's qualifications based on the following criteria that will be used to evaluate candidates.

- ◆ *Goes above and beyond their job description*
- ◆ *Provides quality care to each resident;*
- ◆ *Treats each resident, staff member, and community guest with dignity and respect;*
- ◆ *Nurtures the spirit and individuality of each resident;*
- ◆ *Communicates effectively with residents, family members, staff, and community guests;*
- ◆ *Exhibits punctuality and dedication to their employment position by showing exemplary work ethic;*
- ◆ *Serves as a mentor and role model to staff and community volunteers; and*
- ◆ *Demonstrates outstanding teamwork skills.*

Prize Package: The winner will receive a prize package containing at a minimum: \$100 gift card, one free VALA Conference registration, VALA branded items, a certificate of recognition, and an engraved award for display.

Nominee: _____ Employment Title: _____

ALF Name: _____

ALF Address: _____

ALF Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Length of Service: In current position: _____ At ALF: _____ In Senior Living Industry: _____

Nominator: _____ Nominator Phone: _____

Nomination Checklist:

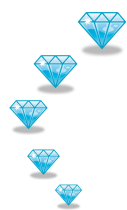
- ☐ Completed Nomination Form
- ☐ Nominee's Resume or listing of employment history with listing of any licenses/certifications held
(do not include copies of actual certificates or applications of employment)
- ☐ Two (2) reference letters

Questions? Call (804) 332-2111

Nomination Deadline: June 1

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Assisted Living Support Staff Award

Nomination Form

The **Assisted Living Support Staff of the Year Award** is sponsored by the Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA) and recognizes individuals who have provided outstanding support in assisted living through their services to residents and their family members.

Nomination Guidelines: One award will be given annually at the awards ceremony held in conjunction with the Virginia Assisted Living Annual Fall Conference. Caregivers that are Supporting Partner Members of VALA and caregivers currently employed in assisted living communities that are VALA members are eligible to receive the award. Examples of Support Staff departments include but are not limited to dietary, housekeeping, maintenance, transportation, activities, and other operational support personnel.

Requirements for Reference: Reference letters need to identify the nominee's qualifications based on the following criteria that will be used to evaluate candidates.

- ◆ *Goes above and beyond their job description*
- ◆ *Provides quality care to each resident;*
- ◆ *Treats each resident, staff member, and community guest with dignity and respect;*
- ◆ *Nurtures the spirit and individuality of each resident;*
- ◆ *Communicates effectively with residents, family members, staff, and community guests;*
- ◆ *Exhibits punctuality and dedication to their employment position by showing exemplary work ethic;*
- ◆ *Serves as a mentor and role model to staff and community volunteers; and*
- ◆ *Demonstrates outstanding teamwork skills.*

Prize Package: The winner will receive a prize package containing at a minimum: \$100 gift card, one free VALA Conference registration, VALA branded items, a certificate of recognition, and an engraved award for display.

Nominee: _____ Employment Title: _____

ALF Name: _____

ALF Address: _____

ALF Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Length of Service: In current position: _____ At ALF: _____ In Senior Living Industry: _____

Nominator: _____ Nominator Phone: _____

Nomination Checklist:

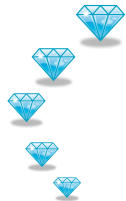
- ☐ Completed Nomination Form
- ☐ Nominee's Resume or listing of employment history with listing of any licenses/certifications held
(do not include copies of actual certificates or applications of employment)
- ☐ Two (2) reference letters

Questions? Call (804) 332-2111

Nomination Deadline: June 1

Return completed nomination forms and supporting documents to:

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Assisted Living Best Practices Award

Nomination Form

The **Assisted Living Best Practices Award** is sponsored by the Virginia Assisted Living Association (VALA) and recognizes assisted living communities and industry advocates who create innovative programs or unique approaches to provide the best service possible to its residents, employees, guests, and local community.

Nomination Guidelines: One award will be given annually at the awards ceremony held in conjunction with the VALA Fall Conference. Only VALA members are eligible to receive the award.

Potential Areas of Best Practices: Managed resident services (transportation, activities, housekeeping, security, maintenance, dining services); Staff recruitment/retention; and Utilization and support of volunteers.

Requirements for Reference: Nominator's reference letter needs to provide a detailed description of the nominated best practice and specify what the need was that existed to initiate the creation of the best practice. Reference letters should provide examples of where the assisted living community may have provided innovative care and exhibited the best practice. The following criteria will be used in evaluating best practice nominations.

- ◆ *Is innovative and provides a unique approach to provide the best service possible to residents, employees, guests, and the local community;*
- ◆ *Develops and maintains positive impact at the community on the lives of residents;*
- ◆ *Develops and maintains positive impact at the community on the staff;*
- ◆ *Results in performance improvements from using the best practice;*
- ◆ *Includes support for residents and staff in implementation; and*
- ◆ *Has an ability to be implemented at other senior living communities.*

Prize Package: The winner will receive a prize package containing at a minimum: 1/2 page ad in the following VALA Spring Conference program, one free VALA Conference registration, VALA branded items, a certificate of recognition, and an engraved award for display.

Nominated Best Practice: _____

Nominator: _____ Employment Title: _____

VALA Member - Organization Name: _____

Organization Address: _____

Organization Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Nomination Checklist:

- ☐ Completed Nomination Form
- ☐ Detailed description of nominated best practice with examples of how it has been impactful
- ☐ Two (2) reference letters

Questions? Call (804) 332-2111

Nomination Deadline: June 1

Return completed nomination forms and supporting documents to:

VALA Diamond Awards, PO Box 71266, Henrico, VA 23255

OR Facsimile: (888) 611-8252 or email to: information@valainfo.org.