

## Mission Healthcare at Bellevue to Receive National Award for Dedication to Continuous Quality Improvement

**For: Immediate Release**

Local Contact: Mr. Kelly L. Callahan, 425/641-1166  
National Contact Alexis Starkey, 202/898-6301

(Bellevue, WA, Date) - Reflective of the national movement within the long term care profession that has improved quality care for the frail, elderly, and disabled, Mission Healthcare at Bellevue will receive an award for quality achievement from the American Health Care Association (AHCA) and the National Center For Assisted Living (NCAL). Mission Healthcare at Bellevue is one of 122 facilities in the nation to achieve this level of recognition within the AHCA/NCAL Quality Award program, demonstrating an extraordinary commitment to a systematic process to achieve continuous quality improvement.

"The AHCA/NCAL Quality Awards are the single most prestigious recognition of quality within the long term care profession," stated AHCA/NCAL President and CEO, Hal Daub. "This facility's achievement places it at the forefront of organizational and performance excellence, where the mission of exceptional care for the elderly is understood and vigorously pursued."

Continued Daub, "Mission Healthcare at Bellevue's achievement shows that dedicated frontline caregivers, administrators, nurses and physicians — in the face of daunting challenges within long term care — are demonstrating their commitment to quality of care and meeting patients' needs." The Quality Awards are part of AHCA/NCAL's Quality First initiative, a covenant for healthy, affordable and ethical long term care.

Following the series of developmental steps that make up the award process, providers gain knowledge and skills to help them better serve their residents. Recipients demonstrated an organization-wide commitment to a resident-focused vision and mission statement, conducted customer satisfaction surveys and had data to demonstrate that customer expectations were being met.

The AHCA/NCAL Quality Award is modeled after criteria from the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, the nation's premier recognition for quality achievement. The AHCA/NCAL award recognizes commitment to a continuous quality improvement process at nursing facilities, assisted living residences, and residences for persons with mental retardation or developmental disabilities. The facilities selected have made customer satisfaction and quality outcomes their top priority.

The national presentation for award recipients is planned during AHCA/NCAL's Annual Convention and Exposition October 16-19, 2005 in Las Vegas. Mission Healthcare at Bellevue is owned by Careage Healthcare of Gig Harbor, WA and offers Long Term, Subacute Rehabilitation Services, Outpatient Rehabilitation and Alzheimer's Care.

-30-

*The American Health Care Association and the National Center For Assisted Living are the nation's leading long term care organizations. AHCA/NCAL and their membership are committed to performance excellence and Quality First, a covenant for healthy, affordable and ethical long term care. AHCA/NCAL represent more than 10,000 non-profit and proprietary facilities dedicated to continuous improvement in the delivery of professional and compassionate care provided daily by caring employees to more than 1.5 million of our nation's frail, elderly and disabled citizens who live in nursing facilities, assisted living residences, subacute centers and homes for persons with mental retardation and developmental disabilities. For more information on AHCA/NCAL, please visit [www.ahca.org](http://www.ahca.org) or [www.cal.org](http://www.cal.org).*