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NEWS RELEASE
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Reardon Honored For 43 Years in Direct Care!

Deb Reardon, a Home Health Aide at Clayton County Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) in Elkader, Iowa was recently honored by Iowa CareGivers for her 43 years in the field of direct care. The recognition took place on October 10, 2022, during Iowa CareGivers “Winners at Caregiving” conference, held at the FFA Enrichment Center, on the DMACC campus, in Ankeny, IA. Reardon’s 43-year career has been spent providing care in nursing homes and for the past 25 years, in home care and she is still working.

Reardon received the Margaret Swanson Legacy in Giving Award. “This Swanson Legacy in Giving Award is important, said Maribel Slinde, Chair, Iowa CareGivers Board of Directors, because it counters the belief by some that direct care isn’t a profession that anyone would choose as a career. Deb and many like her should not be viewed as entry level workers in entry level jobs. She has devoted 43 years to her profession and has touched the lives of thousands of Iowans.”

The award, named in memory of the late Margaret Swanson, long-time Iowa CareGivers volunteer board member and supporter, is held in high esteem by the Iowa CareGivers. Margaret understood what an important role direct care workers play after witnessing the care they provided her daughter, Chris, who was in a coma and later died following a serious car crash. Margaret was a great advocate for those who work in direct care and in her will directed funds to establish the Margaret Swanson Iowa CareGivers Endowment at the Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines.

When asked about her 43 years in the field, Deb said, “when I started out young it was just a way to make some money. I’m not sure exactly when that changed to becoming my passion.”

The Iowa CareGivers is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that exists to ensure that Iowans receive good care and support when and where they need it...it does that by serving the needs of those who provide most of that care and support...the direct care workforce and family caregivers.

For more information about the Iowa CareGivers, its programs, services, and advocacy please visit www.iowacaregivers.org.

For more information about the Clayton County Public Health Visiting Nurse Association please visit <http://www.claytoncountyia.gov/317/Public-HealthVisiting-Nurses-Association>

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