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A streamlined pathway from coursework to employment for Home Health Aides in Quincy

Quincy Housing Authority, Best of Care Inc., and Quincy College Celebrate Home Health Aide Student Graduation and Partnership

SOCIAL MEDIA RELEASE (140 Characters):

.@QuincyCollege .@BestofCare Quincy Housing Authority celebrate partnership & #HomeHealth Aide grads; create path to jobs for #QHA Residents

Press Release Abstract

Quincy Housing Authority, Quincy-based home care agency Best of Care Inc., and Quincy College to celebrate Home Health Aide Student Graduation with new partnership, creating a streamlined pathway from coursework to employment for low income residents. The graduation ceremony will be held at the [Best of Care, Inc.](#) Offices, Suite 501S, 1250 Hancock Street in Quincy on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 11am.

Full Press Release



*Suggested Caption: Quincy College and QHA Home Health Aide Graduates pictured at Best of Care Inc. with President and COO Kevin Smith in Quincy after completing their exams.
((Image Source: Best of Care Inc.))*

Quincy, MA (1/31/2017) - Ten students from the [Quincy Housing Authority](#) (QHA) will graduate from a [Quincy College](#) and QHA Home Health Aide non-credit program on February 6th, celebrating the first group of QHA residents to complete the Home Health Aide program. The graduation ceremony will be held at the [Best of Care, Inc.](#) Offices, Suite 501S, 1250 Hancock Street in Quincy.

The graduation ceremony also celebrates a one-hundred percent graduation rate; 5 of the 10 Home Health Aide graduates will be employed upon graduation with Best of Care, Inc. whose main office is located in Presidents Place; also home to Quincy College's Quincy Campus.

The Quincy College and QHA Home Health Aide program started in August of 2016 with 12 students. Quincy College's Director of Workforce Development and Community Engagement, Kate Lopci seamlessly built the relationship between QHA and Best of Care, Inc. Students received and participated in classroom training in QHA classroom space and at the Best of Care Inc. offices in Presidents Place demonstrated skills and visually observed critical skills in practice.

"The QHA and Quincy College program is addressing a shortage of skilled health-care workers for the City of Quincy and the South Shore. The shortage of trained workers coupled with an aging population means that the number of elderly needing care dramatically outnumber a skilled workforce," Kevin Smith, President and Chief Operating Officer of Best of Care, Inc. with offices in Quincy, Raynham, New Bedford, and S. Dennis.

Smith elaborates: "There is a perfect trinity and synergy between Best of Care, Quincy College, Quincy Housing Authority. We care for more than 1,000 clients per week serving Greater Boston, South Shore, Southeastern Massachusetts, Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard areas. More importantly, we represent three local organizations that support the Quincy community in an impactful manner. Graduates of the Home Health Aide program will care for their fellow Quincy Housing Authority neighbors. This program promotes job training, job readiness, and job placement - all while addressing the critical gap that exist between available caregivers and home bound individuals. "

Graduates of the Home Health Aide program will help with cleaning and cooking, providing assistance with daily living activities like bathing and dressing and provide support for those with moderate, severe or chronic medical conditions. The goal of the home care program is to help individuals remain at home while maximizing their independence.

This Quincy College and QHA program is spearheaded by close collaboration of Quincy College's Office of Workforce Development and the Director of Workforce Development and Community Engagement, Ms. Kate Lopci along with QHA staff. "The Workforce Development Department at Quincy College was created in February of 2016 to act as a catalyst and to foster collaboration between Quincy College and individual businesses or public sector, local agencies, associations and governmental agencies with the purpose of using the combined resources of all partners to create alternative educational program opportunities for non-traditional students in need of skills, educational and career advancement and training that is linked to regional economic development and labor force needs. We are so pleased to partner with QHA and local area business like Best of Care Inc. to address the changing needs of our aging communities and vocational needs of individuals. As a community college located in Quincy Center, the partnership between Quincy College, QHA, and Best of Care Inc. seemed like a natural fit to address this immediate need in the community," Lopci stated.

One of Quincy Housing Authority's priorities is addressing the increasing demand and need for improving job readiness skills. Currently, 30% of the population residing in the QHA area are over 25 years old and 50% of these residents have not graduated from high school. Of the QHA residents, 96% are low-income, 46% receive public assistance, 33% are single parents, and 45% are under age 45. Due to a lack of education, many residents still struggle to find meaningful, gainful employment - mainly because they don't have sufficient English skills, compounded by a lack of vocational skills.

"I love this [Home Health Aide] program because it's free and it gives me the opportunity to learn new things. It will open the doors for me for better jobs to support my wonderful family," Ilyham H., a Quincy Housing Authority resident and Home Health Aide student reflected on the HHA program offered by Quincy College and Quincy Housing Authority.

Carolyn Crossley, Director of Program Management for the Quincy Housing Authority reflects on the alignment of Quincy College mission of accessibility for all students, Best of Care Inc. credo, and QHA's mission to encourage all residents: "We've partnered with Quincy College to deliver high quality education and training opportunities to our residents including ESOL, workforce development, and vocational training. Our goal is to provide families and individuals with the tools, training, and education to move up and if desired, move out. The Quincy College, QHA, and Best of Care partnership extends an opportunity to QHA residents, allowing them to impact aging

in place. It's a win-win scenario for local residents who benefit from free vocational training as residents of QHA."

The seamless partnership with Best of Care meant that students could apply for a position before the end of their program. "With the certificate printed, on graduation day, the Home Health Aide students are employable and are given a chance to succeed," Smith states.

"It's never too late to succeed, just need to take that first step," said Jasmine V., a QHA resident and graduate of the Home Health Aide program.

The free, open-to Quincy Housing Authority residents, Home Health Aide program will be offered by Quincy College and Quincy Housing Authority in February 2017. For more information, please contact Linda Webber, Instructor at Quincy Housing Authority at 781-901-4506.

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ABOUT QUINCY COLLEGE

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,500 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 35 associate degree programs and 21 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, Natural & Health Sciences and Nursing. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area, South Shore, Cape and the Islands, as well as 121 countries around the world.

For additional information, visit www.quincycollege.edu

ABOUT QUINCY HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Quincy Housing Authority Development Corporation was organized on July 23, 2014. This affiliate of the Quincy Housing Authority has filed for non-profit status. It is the mission of the Development Corporation to operate exclusively for charitable purposes. The objectives to be carried on and promoted by the Corporation include seeking grants or other funding and contributions to provide services and assistance to persons of low or moderate income and to construct, manage and maintain housing for the benefit of such persons. The Quincy Housing Authority is a public body corporate, whose function is to administer the local public housing programs. An Authority is not a Federal, State or City department, but is a political subdivision of the Commonwealth. The mission of the Quincy Housing Authority to promote, develop and maintain affordable rent and homeownership housing opportunities that are well designed, consistent with market standards, cost effective to manage, and encourage freedom of choice. By providing an environment of choice, strengthened by essential support services, the Authority seeks to assist eligible households and individuals of low and moderate income in achieving household stability and economic self-sufficiency. In fulfilling this mission, the

Quincy Housing Authority seeks to become more entrepreneurial in its activities and to manage its assets wisely and in accordance with sound business practices.

For more information, visit: <http://quincyha.phanetwork.com/Home.aspx>.

ABOUT BEST OF CARE INC.

Best of Care is a family-owned and operated home care agency headquartered in Quincy, MA that has delivered home care services to Massachusetts communities since 1981. Best of Care provides an extensive array of home care services to over 100 towns and cities throughout Greater Boston, the South Shore, the South Coast, Cape Cod and Martha's Vineyard - with offices in Quincy, Raynham, New Bedford, and S. Dennis. Services include personal care, homemakers and companions, hospice care, nursing care management and specialty services as they relate to dementia, psychiatric and acquired brain injury care. Best of Care Inc. was named a 2014 Family Business of the Year finalist by the [Family Business Association of Massachusetts](#). President and Chief Operating Officer Kevin Smith serves as Vice President, Executive Committee Member, Board Member and Technology Committee Chair of the [Home Care Aide Council of Massachusetts](#). Visit bestofcareinc.com and follow @bestofcare on Twitter and www.facebook.com/bestofcare.