



RICK SCOTT  
GOVERNOR

**Better Health Care for all Floridians**

ELIZABETH DUDEK  
SECRETARY

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Contact: AHCA Communications Office  
[AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com](mailto:AHCACommunications@ahca.myflorida.com), 850-412-3623

### **Agency Recognizes Nine Nursing Homes for Excellence in Long Term Care**

**Tallahassee, FL** – The Florida Agency for Health Care Administration (Agency) today congratulates nine Florida nursing homes for receiving the Governor’s Gold Seal Award, which recognizes nursing homes that demonstrate the highest standards of quality of life and care for their residents.

Governor Rick Scott said, “We owe it to Florida’s elders to provide the best care we can. I would like to congratulate and recognize the nine nursing homes that are receiving the Governor’s Gold Seal Award. Through their hard work, Florida families can know that their loved ones are getting the best care possible.”

“We applaud this year’s Gold Seal recipients for their outstanding leadership and the high-quality nursing care they provide to their residents,” said Secretary Liz Dudek. “We appreciate their dedication to ensuring their residents receive care in a homelike and nurturing environment.”

Award recipients include six new recipients and three renewal recipients. They are as follow:

- Ayers Health and Rehabilitation Center, Trenton\*
- Bear Creek Nursing Center, Hudson\*
- Bon Secours Maria Manor Nursing Care Center, St. Petersburg\*
- Harbour’s Edge, Delray Beach
- Joseph L Morse Geriatric Center Inc., West Palm Beach
- Life Care St. Johns, Inc., St. Augustine\*
- The Pavilion for Health Care, Penney Farms
- Tierra Pines Center, Largo\*
- Tuskawilla Nursing and Rehab Center, Winter Springs\*

*\*Denotes the 6 new nursing homes receiving the award at this time.*

“We are proud that five of the nine recipients are LeadingAge Florida members,” said Janegale Boyd, President/CEO of LeadingAge Florida – a group that represents senior housing and long-term care communities. “The resident-centered services and programs that these homes offer to enrich the lives of their residents make them special. We wish that more high quality providers would apply.”

Nursing homes that wish to be considered for the Gold Seal Award must submit an application to the Agency, which is reviewed by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care. The Panel considers the criteria below and makes recommendations to the Governor. Gold Seal



recipients must be in operation a minimum of 30 months prior to the date of application and the facility must:

- Meet a quality of care scoring and ranking that places them in the top 10 percent in their region or top 15 percent in the state and be a 5-star facility in the Nursing Home Guide
- Have no Class I or II deficiencies within 30 months preceding application
- Provide evidence of financial soundness and stability
- Participate in a consumer satisfaction process involving residents, family members and guardians
- Involve families and members of the community in the facility on a regular basis
- Have a stable workforce
- Have an outstanding record with the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Council within the 30 months preceding application
- Provide targeted in-service training to meet training needs identified.

“It is appropriate that we honor those nursing homes that have demonstrated excellence in the performance of their duties and responsibilities to residents,” said Jim Crochet, Florida’s State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. “On behalf of over 400 volunteer ombudsman and staff, I wish to congratulate these facilities and staff who have strived to do the best they can to protect the health, safety, welfare and rights of residents and demonstrate culture change and resident-centered care.”

“Recognition programs like Gold Seal are important in helping to give the public a clear picture of the positive care outcomes and customer service that long term care providers are delivering every day,” said Emmett Reed, Executive Director of the Florida Health Care Association.

The Gold Seal Award program was developed and implemented by the Governor's Panel on Excellence in Long-Term Care, which is composed of persons appointed by the Governor’s Office, Agency for Health Care Administration, Department of Health, Department of Elder Affairs, Florida Association of Homes for the Aging, Florida Health Care Association, Florida Life Care Residents Association and the State Long Term-Care Ombudsman.

Of the 678 licensed nursing homes in Florida, 19 nursing homes currently hold the Gold Seal Award. The Gold Seal Award program was established in 2002 and recognizes Florida nursing homes that have exceptionally high standards and display excellence in the quality of care delivered to their residents.

For a complete listing of Gold Seal facilities, please visit [FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://FloridaHealthFinder.gov) then click on Find a Facility or Provider. From here choose Search by Facility Type/Location and use the Advanced Search option when searching for Nursing Homes to find the list of Gold Seal facilities.

*The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to better health care for all Floridians. The Agency administers Florida’s Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at [www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov](http://www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov).*

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