

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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Submitted by:  
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**Cheri Schendel-Hennager Selected as Leadership AAHSA Fellow**

Cheri Schendel-Hennager, Assistant Administrator, for Bethany Life Communities of Story City, Iowa, was recently selected as a fellow for the American Association for Homes and Services for the Aging's (AAHSA) Leadership AAHSA program. Cheri is one of 33 people from across the nation and the only candidate from Iowa selected for the inaugural fellowship program. Cheri has served the elderly at Bethany Life Communities for eleven(11) years as a CNA, LPN, RN Supervisor, Director of Nursing, and is currently the Assistant Administrator of Bethany Manor.

Leadership AAHSA is a year-long intensive educational experience created to augment the ranks of emerging leaders across the continuum of care and services for the aging, while addressing the shortage of potential leaders nationwide. The curriculum is designed to enhance the skills of such emerging leaders, encourage innovation and advance person-centered approaches for residents, clients and staff members. Leadership AAHSA is also focused on fostering diversity among aging-services leaders. More than half of this year's participants are women, and one-third are people of color.

Cheri began the national leadership program at AAHSA's 2006 Annual Meeting & Exposition in San Francisco in November 2006. As part of this experience, she will work with other leaders, attend classroom and online education and visit organizations that offer innovative care and services to older adults.

"Leadership AAHSA is built on the power of collaboration and community to develop the innovative, person-centered programs our elders deserve," AAHSA president and CEO Larry Minnix said. "Together, Cheri and her colleagues will learn valuable skills that will help their organizations offer seniors the services they need, when they need them, in a place they can call home."

Betsy Warburton, President & CEO of Bethany Life Communities commented that, "Bethany Life Communities is investing resources into assuring that all of our staff excel in their work; including our leadership staff. We are very proud and happy that Cheri has been selected to participate in Leadership AAHSA. We know that her participation will bring strength to our organization and we support her fully."

To learn more about the Leadership AAHSA program, visit AAHSA's Web site at [www.aahsa.org](http://www.aahsa.org).

***About Bethany Life Communities***

Bethany Life Communities of Story City, Iowa, is a non-profit, faith-based organization that has been serving the elderly in central Iowa for over ninety (90) years. You can learn more about our mission, history and services by visiting our website at [www.bethanylife.org](http://www.bethanylife.org).

***About AAHSA***

The members of the American Association for Homes and Services for the Aging ([www.aahsa.org](http://www.aahsa.org)) serve two million people every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit aging service providers located all across the country

**See attached photo.**