

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ceca Foundation Announces Annual Caregiver Award Honorees

Nursing and Hospital Caregivers Recognized with the Ceca Award

Washington, DC, March 2, 2020: Ceca Foundation is pleased to honor three extraordinary health caregivers with its Annual Ceca Caregiver Award:

- **Nicole Dudeck** is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Providence Place in Drums, PA, a senior living facility offering independent living, personal and memory care. After several promotions took her into support roles, she missed direct contact with her patients and returned to work as a CNA. Her kindness is reflected in her many small acts of caring, such as taking the initiative to bring residents new clothing, toiletries, or decorative holiday trees for their apartments. She often offers warm hugs to those she cares for—patients, residents and their families.
- **Olivia Plummer** is a Unit Clerk at Doctors Community Hospital in Lanham, MD. Olivia was honored for helping a family member who needed to fill an insulin prescription for her daughter. After being told Medicaid wouldn't cover it, the mother anxiously called Olivia. On her own time, Olivia talked to a Medicaid representative and the fulfilling pharmacists, asking questions the patient's mother didn't think to ask. With herculean effort and exceptional empathy for those who struggle with the healthcare system, Olivia finally got the much-needed prescription filled, bringing the family member to tears.
- **Ayan Sharif** is a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) at Goodwin House, Alexandria, VA, a nonprofit Life Plan community, and part of the Goodwin House family of senior living communities and services. Ayan was recognized for her special relationships with residents and her focus on their happiness and wellbeing. She engages with residents in a way that helps them maintain as much independence as possible and allows them to have a voice in their own treatment and decision-making. She is particularly known for her exceptional ability to interact with dementia patients.

Each of these honorees receives a monetary award of \$2,500, and all are celebrated by their fellow staff members, patients, families, and the Ceca team at their respective healthcare communities.

Ceca Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, partners with over 50 healthcare communities to recognize their outstanding caregivers. Ceca provides propriety software and manages its partners' engagement and recognition program, while underwriting monetary awards for caregivers.

To build teamwork, all staff are considered caregivers. Ceca Award candidates are nominated by their peers, patients, residents and families, who cite the nominee's exemplary caregiver values and

exceptional acts of care. Selections are made monthly or quarterly by a local selection panel. The program has generated 22,000 nominations since launch and 700 Ceca Award honorees.

Additionally, each year the Foundation seeks to recognize the “best of the best” with its highest award. Annual Ceca Award Honorees and Finalists are selected by Ceca’s Board from the pool of Award winners over the prior year from throughout Ceca’s network of healthcare partners.

Last year, 2,000 caregivers were nominated and 150 were selected for the Ceca Award in their facilities. From this elite group, three honorees received the Annual Ceca Award, and eight finalists were also honored:

Paul Blankenship, Vascular Technician at Doctors Community Hospital
Carolyn Brown, Restorative Certified Nursing Assistant at Birmingham Green
Colleen Carbury, RN Case Manager at Capital Caring Health
Carrie Cornell, Social Services Director at Genesis Healthcare, Gettysburg Center
Melissa Ellis, Housekeeping/Laundry at Stoddard Baptist Nursing Home
Daniel Ghidey, Dining Services Supervisor at Goodwin House Bailey’s Crossroads
Sharae Greene, Psychiatric Counselor at Psychiatric Institute of Washington
Mohamed Koroma, Director of Engineering at Knollwood Military Retirement Community

“Each of these individuals is a shining example of the spirit of caring that takes place in our nation’s healthcare communities every day,” said Nate Hamme, President of Ceca Foundation. “Some caregiver acts are truly heroic, but often it’s the simple act of connecting with patients, residents, and their families that lifts all of our humanity.”

About Ceca Foundation

Ceca Foundation (pronounced *See’ ka*, as in **Celebrating caregivers**) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit based in Washington, DC, which partners with hospitals, nursing, aging care and other healthcare communities to recognize their exceptional caregivers. Founded by Matthew and Rosemary Lawlor, Ceca seeks to improve the patient experience by publicly recognizing caregivers through its innovative technology platforms (including its software and CecaTV network), support services, and monetary awards. For more information, visit CecaFoundation.org and watch a brief [introductory video](#). You can also follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). To schedule an interview with one of our award recipients, contact Michelle Sims.

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