



Geriatric Care Management



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 7, 2009

Contact: Jennifer Szakaly, MA, CMC
704-492-0554

Lutheran Services for the Aging Announces Partnership with Caregiving Corner

CORNELIUS, NC - July 7, 2009 -

Navigating the terrain of eldercare services can often be difficult. That's why Lutheran Services for the Aging (LSA), one of the largest not-for-profit providers of services to seniors in North Carolina, has established a program to provide geriatric care management.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with LSA to provide their geriatric care management services so that their clients are able to receive a full-spectrum of services," said Jennifer Szakaly, nationally certified care manager and principal owner of Caregiving Corner.

Established in 2005, Caregiving Corner offers geriatric care management services to older adults and/or their caregivers. According to Szakaly, "Sorting through eldercare services can be overwhelming. A geriatric care manager (GCM) is familiar with community resources, what services are available, which programs work, who to trust, and how to get things done."

LSA President Ted W. Goins, Jr. stated, "The number of elders requesting or requiring assistance to remain safely at home or to transition into a residential setting is growing at an astonishing rate. Geriatric care management is a tool LSA can now offer to elders or to caregivers who need help during that process."

LSA, ranked 64th among the 100 largest not-for-profit providers of aging services in the United States, now operates nursing homes in Salisbury, Albemarle, Winston-Salem and Hickory; an assisted living residence in Clemmons; retirement communities in Arden and Salisbury; and an adult day services program in Salisbury. Through an affiliation with Caregiving Corner, the Salisbury-based healthcare organization will now provide geriatric care management services in Mecklenburg, Gaston, Cleveland, Lincoln, Iredell, Cabarrus, Union, Alexander, Burke, Caldwell, Catawba, Stanly, Forsyth, Rowan, Davie, Guilford, and Buncombe Counties. The resulting service area represents an expansion of the original counties served by Caregiving Corner.

"Ultimately, the goal is to expand LSA's services throughout North Carolina," Goins stated. "This endeavor will allow LSA to extend its ministry beyond the walls of its buildings into the greater community. It will provide us with an opportunity to serve elders in parts of the state that until now have been largely beyond our reach."

Services typically provided by Caregiving Corner include assessing the individual and their situation, developing a plan of care, arranging for services, and providing oversight of those services. Though any senior or caregiver can benefit from the advice of a GCM, the service is especially useful to adult children living at a distance from an aging parent. Fees are paid for privately, though some long-term care policies will cover the cost of a GCM.

"Often," Szakaly added, "the GCM fees are small when compared to the emotional and financial cost of letting unknown or challenging situations turn into larger problems."