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Local Occupational Therapy Assistant Recognized as Hero of the Year by BAYADA Home Health Care

Patients describe him as extraordinary

Cabarrus, NC — June 11, 2013 — Mt. Pleasant resident and certified occupational therapy assistant Leonard Barringer was chosen from 750 therapists as a BAYADA Home Health Care Hero of the Year. Barringer received this prestigious honor for exemplifying the highest standards of care for his patients. BAYADA President and Founder Mark Baiada presented Barringer with the Hero award during the company's annual awards meeting in Hershey, PA on June 8.

"I am so honored to receive this recognition," said Barringer as he accepted the award in front of more than 1,800 BAYADA employees. "But I don't feel like I am doing anything out of the ordinary."

The patients who benefit from Barringer's care would disagree. They describe his expertise, sense of humor, professionalism, and compassion as nothing short of extraordinary, and are not surprised at all that he earned the title of Hero!

BAYADA patient Roy Lane, who suffered partial paralysis as a result of a stroke, made a remarkable recovery, thanks to occupational therapy services provided in the home by Barringer. "He makes you want to do more. He's just excellent. I can move better now and do things I couldn't do before, like button my shirt and tie my shoes," said Lane. "Leonard is my hero because he got me to do things that nobody else could."

Barringer also touched the life of BAYADA patient Dorothy Barnes. Congestive heart failure coupled with a stroke have left Barnes confined to bed. However, visits from Barringer are a bright spot in her day. "Leonard provides excellent care," she said. "He is friendly, and kind, and nice and comical. Leonard is A number one!"

Barnes' son Johnny also expressed his gratitude to Barringer. "Leonard has gone above and beyond to get my momma to good health. He took such good care of her like nobody else has and to me that means a lot," he said. "Leonard, I want you to know from the bottom of my heart and from my momma's heart, you helped us so much and that's why you are our hero."

During the awards meeting, BAYADA Director Marie McCarter had the honor of introducing a poignant video featuring heartfelt sentiments from patients and their loved ones. "Every week patients call our office just to tell us how wonderful Leonard is," she shared with the crowd. "We are so very proud to have him as part of our team. He is *The BAYADA Way*."

In addition to his dedication to his patients, Barringer spends his time helping a local little league team raise funds for equipment, and volunteering for a hunger relief organization. What's more, he is committed to advancing the profession of occupational therapy and is currently helping Cabarrus College of Health Sciences in Concord, NC become accredited for an occupational therapy program. As part of his work with the school's program, he has served as a mentor, taking a number of students with an interest in health care on patient visits.

During his acceptance speech, Barringer, accompanied by his four-year old son Turner, humbly expressed his appreciation for this honor. "I'm just me all of the time, what you see is what you get," he said. "I thank my family, my office team in Cabarrus, and especially Mark Baiada for allowing me to work for such a wonderful company."

Established in 1999, the Hero on the Home Front Program recognizes care professionals who consistently demonstrate the BAYADA core values of compassion, excellence, and reliability. Each quarter, local heroes are nominated by their clients and peers, and the award recipients are honored in a local celebration. From the local heroes, division heroes are chosen, and finally, one national hero is selected for four disciplines and each of the four is recognized at the annual awards ceremony.

Watch what makes Leonard Barringer a hero at http://bayada.com/education_heroes2013.asp

Founded in 1975 by J. Mark Baiada, BAYADA Home Health Care provides nursing, rehabilitative, therapeutic, hospice, and assistive care services to children, adults, and seniors in the comfort of their homes. Headquartered in suburban Philadelphia, BAYADA employs more than 18,000 nurses, home health aides, therapists, medical social workers, and other home health care professionals who serve their communities in 25 states from more than 250 offices. For more information, visit www.bayada.com.

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Pictured during the BAYADA Home Health Care annual awards meeting in Hershey, PA are (l to r) BAYADA Director Ann Baiada, Therapy Hero of the Year Leonard Barringer, and BAYADA President and Founder Mark Baiada.