

Friendship Village Employees Recognized as Exceptional Caregivers by VOYCE Advocacy Organization

St. Louis, MO. (DECEMBER 17th, 2019) – Two Friendship Village Senior Living community employees were recently recognized as exceptional caregivers by local senior citizen advocacy group VOYCE. Colin Goodwin and Ivanka Kraeva were awarded the Exceptional Caregiver Award for their dedication, hard-working spirit, and the joy they each bring to the residents of Friendship Village. Colin assists with tasks in the Village Care Center at the Sunset Hills location while Ivanka is a Village Care Center (Skilled Nursing) Supervisor at the Chesterfield location. Both have shown admirable dedication to their work, the residents, and other staff members.



Goodwin has been working at the retirement community for the last nine years where he has served as an assistant in the residents' therapy gym. After witnessing the joy Colin brings to others, Stacey Zerban, Friendship Village Sunset Hills (Skilled Nursing) administrator, nominated him for the award. Each day Goodwin greets residents and staff members with a smile, works hard to keep the gym clean, and distributes water to the residents during their sessions.

“He loves his work and his infectious enthusiasm is a gift beyond measure. Physical therapy can be difficult, and one day Colin noticed that a resident wasn't having a good day. He started

talking to her to make her feel better and asked to give her a hug. That hug completely changed her day. The love he brings with him each day is a gift to everyone,” says Zerban.

Kraeva has been with the company for 15 years and has worked her way up the food and beverage department and has become an essential part of its process. Emmanuel Teferi, director of food and beverage services at Chesterfield, nominated her as he has seen first-hand her drive to succeed. Kraeva started as a server but now holds the position of supervisor where she strives to bring her caring, personal touch to the people she works with every day.

“Knowing that I can turn to her at any moment to train any person to do any position is a big deal. She has a thorough, gentle nature that she has shown as she trained our new hire, James. The way she instilled the culture of Friendship Village is such a tremendous asset to us. Every day as a whole we strive for personal greatness, and Ivanka lives and breathes it,” says Terefi.

With the goal of helping residents live well, longer, Friendship Village is honored to have two of its employees recognized as Exceptional Caregivers. To learn more about Friendship Village, please visit www.FriendshipVillageSTL.com or call 314-270-1749. To learn more about VOYCE, visit www.VoyceSTL.org.

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Photo Caption: *Ivanka Kraeva and Colin Goodwin smile upon receiving their Exceptional Caregiver Awards at the recent VOYCE luncheon December 5.*

Friendship Village Senior Services is a faith-based, not-for-profit organization devoted to providing a full range of senior living options. As the only provider of the Life Care program in the St. Louis metro area, Friendship Village guarantees residents access to all levels of health care—all on one campus—at a predictable cost for life. Friendship Village continually invests in wellness programs and technology to keep residents living well and independent, longer. From independent living, to assisted living, memory care, skilled nursing and in-home care, Friendship Village continues to build the future of senior living.

Friendship Village at Home brings the extensive experience and quality care of Friendship Village services to the homes of area seniors and includes Medicare home health and private duty care. Our mission-driven board of directors and highly experienced staff encourage a culture of friendship and loving care through the highest quality services and a focus on residents’ spiritual, emotional, physical and social wellbeing. For more information about **Friendship Village Senior Services** please visit www.FriendshipVillageSTL.com.



VOYCE is an organization that prides itself in ensuring individuals who live in long-term care communities are educated and empowered, as well as their families. Serving the Greater St. Louis area and Northeast Missouri region, VOYCE has been helping over 22,000 individuals who are living in more than 350 skilled nursing, assisted living, and residential care communities. For more information about VOYCE and their mission please visit www.VoyceSTL.org.