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Innovative Choices And Resources For Aging With Dignity

Geriatric Care Management Helps Bridge The Gaps In Long Term Care

St. Louis, MO – April 2, 2007 – Josie forgot the soup on the stove with the burner turned on; if her daughter, Samantha, had not dropped in at 2 PM to check on her, the fire would have been devastating. Samantha knew that her mother was forgetting things and was confused sometimes about whether or not she had taken her medicine. She could now see that the situation was getting serious and potentially dangerous to her mother's health. Samantha needed to find a way to keep her mother in her home, safely.

In record numbers, today's seniors are looking for options that will allow them to remain at home instead of entering institutionalized care. Imagine a family undergoing a critical life transition with an aging parent, and oftentimes from afar. The family needs to identify a provider who is sensitive to their needs, while preserving their parent's dignity and independence. With the aging population and lengthening of life spans, both the number and proportion of older people are rapidly increasing and putting new pressures on these individuals and their families.

With this increasing consumer demand, a rapidly growing model of care that combines geriatric care management with in-home care provides many advantages:

- For the elderly, it allows them to keep their independence and to continue, as best as possible, living the life they know
- It assists with helping the elderly transition in their next stage of life
- By providing families with much needed resources and help, they can be relieved of the burden and stress when caring for an elderly loved one
- Personalized and customized home care softens the impact of dysfunctional family dynamics when identifying how to provide care for an aging parent and allows the parents to make the right decisions

Care for the frail elderly should be designed to enable the senior to live in a self-sustaining manner for as long as possible. As time goes on, the older person may begin to slowly lose their mental acuity or physical abilities. Simple everyday tasks may become more difficult. At the forefront of providing this vital integrated service is St. Louis care managed home care company, Continuum (www.continuumcare.com). Continuum offers highly personalized and customized care services, while promoting independence, autonomy and dignity through care management with experienced geriatric care professionals.

Geriatric care management showcases a next generation of social workers with specialized knowledge and expertise who are providing this crucial range of services to fill the critical gaps in long-term care. The National Association of Geriatric Care Managers (www.caremanager.org) is a professional organization whose members are dedicated to assisting the elderly remain in the least restrictive environment as long as they wish.

Holohan, a social worker himself says, "We work with the families to help understand and provide the quality of care that their loved ones need. We are advocates for aging with dignity by offering choices and resources never easily available before."

About Continuum

Continuum, locally owned and operated by Barth Holohan, MSSW, MBA, has been helping people of all ages with care needs in the St. Louis area since 2002. With services ranging from care managed home care, emergency medical alert systems, care planning/care management, bill paying and supportive services in retirement communities, Continuum truly offers Care for Life. Their expert staff are personally matched with families to partner with them and guide them through any care need. Visit www.ContinuumCare.com or call (314) 863-9912 for more information.

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