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Washington Health Care Association Raises \$37,000 for Spokane Long-term Care Workers Impacted by Wildfires

SPOKANE – On September 15, 2026, hundreds of employees from long-term care communities from across Washington state gathered in Spokane to host the “All in for Spokane” fundraiser as part of the Washington Health Care Association annual Fall Conference. In response to the devastation of this summer’s wildfires in Spokane and throughout the state, WHCA members dedicated this year’s fundraiser to directly support individual assisted living and skilled nursing facility workers who were impacted by the fires. The Washington Foundation for Long-Term Care has collected over \$37,000 that will go towards direct financial relief to individuals who work for WHCA member facilities.

“Front-line employees at nursing homes and assisted living communities across Spokane demonstrated a heroic level of commitment to Spokane residents, their families, and employees during this summer’s devastating fires,” said **Carma Matti-Jackson, President and CEO of the Washington Health Care Association**. “While dozens of employees are still personally recovering from damaged and destroyed homes, their ongoing dedication to the safety and well-being of their residents has been remarkable. We are grateful for the contributions from so many individuals, organizations and companies in this effort to help support the Spokane community’s on-going recovering from this crisis.”

During the event, WHCA shared some of the extraordinary actions that employees took during wildfire evacuations, including:

- Some residents and staff of Avista Senior Living in Spokane traveled 212 miles to temporary care and housing at their sister facility in Yakima, while others traveled 178 miles to Ellensburg.
- 111 residents were safely evacuated by the hardworking team at Spokane Health and Rehab in just 48 minutes.
- 47 memory care residents were evacuated from Brookdale Nine Mile in just minutes, with many forced to leave walkers and wheelchairs behind, as explosions went off nearby.
- Cornerstone Court Assisted Living and Memory Care hosted an improvised, functional care facility for 40 displaced memory care residents inside a local church for nine days following evacuations.

All in for Spokane sponsorships also contributed directly to the fund. Sponsors included: Incite Strategic Partners, McKesson Medical-Surgical, Optum, Credential Network, Monticello AM, Agile Consulting Group, Behavioral Health Services, and ANDS Nurse Consulting.

Funds will be distributed to employees directly this fall. Donations are still being accepted [at this link](#) for anyone interested in contributing to the fund.

Information on these two types of long-term care:

Facts on Assisted Living

Assisted Living provides 24/7 supervision that includes housekeeping, daily personal care, intermittent nursing,

medication assistance, social activities, transportation support and meals. Those in Assisted Living often live in private apartments. Older adults in Assisted Living are:

- 30% are 74-84 years old, 55% are 85+
- 85% require medication assistance (avg. of 12-15 daily medications)
- 54% have Alzheimer's/dementia
- 72% identify as female
- 18.8% rely on Medicaid (access is low due to insufficient state investment in Medicaid)
 - o Private pay rates are increasing in order to subsidize low state Medicaid investments

Skilled Nursing Facilities

Skilled Nursing Facilities provide post-surgery therapies, transportation for on-going treatments (e.g. chemotherapy, dialysis), care for intense needs related to chronic medical treatment, diet (liquid, soft, tube), complex wound care, bowel/bladder programs, oxygen therapies and condition management (e.g. cancer, kidney failure, tracheotomy).

Adults in Skilled Nursing Facilities are:

- 77 years old, on average
- 59% have moderate/high cognitive impairment, 42% diagnosed with Alzheimer's/dementia
- 32% are obese, 85% are bladder incontinent, 70% are bowel incontinent, 75% have hypertension and 28% have congestive heart failure
- 17% are bedfast
- 7,800 residents rely on Medicaid

About Washington Health Care Association

Washington Health Care Association is a nonprofit professional association for the long-term care community in Washington, representing 156 Skilled Nursing and 404 Assisted Living providers across the state. In partnership with these member facilities and business partners, WHCA promotes and advocates for healthy, affordable and ethical long-term care at the state and federal levels. For more information, please visit whca.org.

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