



Oregon Health Care Foundation Community Champion Award Given to Sailor Who Made Dream Come True

- Statewide OHCF senior wish program fulfills hundreds of last wishes through volunteer efforts-

PORTLAND, Ore. — **September 11, 2008** – DeVaul Henderson of Island Sailing Club and School listened intently when phoned by Sue Painter, an Oregon Health Care Foundation (OHCF) volunteer and director of community relations at the Avamere at Sherwood senior living center. Sue wanted to grant a 77 year-old resident, suffering from terminal cancer, a senior wish. The resident, who was a sailor, had asked for a final ocean voyage. Henderson, who had recently lost his own father to cancer, was moved by the story. Without hesitation, he booked a Catalina 32 ft. sailboat for hosting a final sailing trip in July for the resident who was accompanied by his daughter and two grandsons.

He also treated them to another final wish — an on-board lunch of filet mignon and Heineken beer. Henderson said the experience gave more to him than what he gave to the family.

“He was so happy to help,” said Painter “He just needed to be asked.”

For his volunteerism, DeVaul Henderson will be honored this month by OHCF with the annual Community Champion Award. OHCF grants the award to a community member outside the long term care profession whose volunteerism inspires a sense of community and who has significantly contributed to the quality of life of a long term care resident.

Sue Painter a former nurse and also a master Best Friends trainer at Avamere at Sherwood, is an active participant in OHCF’s program. OHCF annually trains 150 long-term care professionals. The nonprofit charitable organization is dedicated to supporting quality long term care in Oregon. OHCF also provides educational opportunities for current and future employees at long term care facilities in Oregon, programs that enrich the lives of Oregon seniors and outreach to enhance the public understanding and appreciation of the long term care profession.

About Avamere Group: Avamere Sherwood is a skilled nursing facility located in a quiet neighborhood and beautifully landscaped campus. Services offered include long-term nursing care, dementia care and physical, occupational and speech therapy. Avamere at Sherwood is part of the Avamere family of companies offering a spectrum of healthcare solutions and living options for seniors in approximately 40 communities throughout Oregon and Washington. Our mission is to enhance the life of every person we serve through our home health, independent living, assisted living, skilled nursing, dementia care, rehabilitation therapy and hospice care professions. For more information visit www.avamere.com.

-30-

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details and interviews contact Sara McNall, Oregon Health Care Foundation, 503-726-5238 or Mara Woloshin, Woloshin Communications at (503) 241-3834, (503) 310-44504, all hours.

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