



## **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **NEW MEXICO HEALTHCARE WORKERS RECOGNIZED AS 2021 BEST OF THE BEST RECIPIENTS**

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – New Mexico Health Care Association/New Mexico Center for Assisted Living (NMHCA/NMCAL) announced the recipients of its 2021 Best of the Best Awards recognizing long-term care staff throughout New Mexico. The award program recognizes remarkable individuals for their professional service and dedication to residents as they advance excellence in New Mexico’s long-term care facilities.

“We’re honored to be able to recognize the work and dedication of our long-term care workers in New Mexico,” said Vicente Vargas, Executive Director at NMHCA/NMCAL. “As the backbone of long-term care, these individuals represent what it means to promote individual quality of life for our most vulnerable population with compassion and care.”

For the 2021 awards, caregivers from throughout New Mexico were nominated in 11 categories: Administrative Support, Administrator of the Year, Direct Caregiver, Director of Nursing, Licensed Nurse, Manager, Nurse Manager, Resident Support, Social Services, Support Services, and Volunteer. The nominees were judged based on their contributions to the residents, peers, and families in their day-to-day activities.

The 2021 Best of the Best recipients are:

#### **Albuquerque**

Best Licensed Nurse – Dominic Pele, Skies Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center  
Best Director of Nursing – Vanessa Rodriguez, Skies Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center  
Best Resident Support – Linh McGovern, Skies Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center

#### **Carlsbad**

Best Administrative Support – Karen Romero, Lakeview Christian Home

#### **Farmington**

Best Direct Caregiver – Samantha Benally, San Juan Center  
Best Support Services – Cassandra White, San Juan Center

#### **Las Cruces**

Best Volunteer – Carolyn Scott, The Village at Northrise  
Best Nurse Manager – Cindy Myers, The Village at Northrise  
Best Social Services – Victoria Garcia, The Village at Northrise

**Santa Fe**

Best Manager – Margarita Vasquez, Santa Maria El Mirador  
Best Direct Caregiver – Jennifer Salvidrez, Sierra Vista  
Best Administrator – Amanda Aragon, Vista Hermosa

**ABOUT NMHCA/NMCAL**

Established in 1954, NMHCA is a non-profit professional trade association that represents nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the mentally retarded (ICF/MR) and assisted living facilities in the state of New Mexico.

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