



For Immediate Release
May 19, 2015

Contact: Amy Luft
262-284-5892

Facility to Host Virtual Dementia Tour

Port Washington, WI - Ozaukee County is being highlighted as one of six examples around the State of Wisconsin to take part in the Dementia Friendly Communities initiative. An Ozaukee County Dementia Capable Workgroup has been formed which currently consists of, representatives from case management organizations, skilled nursing care facilities, legal professionals, ADRC, Human Services and family caregivers, all striving to build awareness and assist with the education.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias are already straining Wisconsin's long-term care system, and the number of people affected is expected to increase dramatically as the baby boom generation ages. The Department of Health Services is committed to changing the way state residents with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are cared for in Wisconsin. The mission is to provide appropriate, safe and cost-effective care throughout the course of the disease.

Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, Port Washington, will be one of the local training centers offering a *Virtual Dementia Tour*. Health care professionals, family caregivers, business leaders, consumer advocates, first responders and educators participating in the training are able to experience for themselves the physical and mental challenges facing the 5.3 million Americans who suffer from Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. "The solution to Alzheimer's disease today and in the foreseeable future is in developing a better and more personal understanding of the day-to-day challenges facing those with the disease," said Angela Willms, Administrator at Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. "The *Virtual Dementia Tour* is a tool that makes that understanding possible." The tour which employs four different components to alter the subject's senses and perception, helps to simulate the day-to-day experiences of people with dementia and Alzheimer's: "It's a way for us to walk, for a time, in an afflicted person's shoes", says Willms.

The Virtual Dementia Tour, which takes approximately 20 minutes to complete, will take place on Friday, June 19 from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, 1119 N. Wisconsin St., Port Washington. To reserve a time, please call 262-284-5892 or email aluft@extendicare.com.

Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center is a 74-bed skilled nursing center providing long-term care and short-term rehabilitation, including hospice and respite care. For more information about the center call 262-284-5892 or visit www.heritageskillednursing.com. For more information about this announcement please contact:

Amy Luft, Referral Manager, at aluft@extendicare.com or 262-284-5892 Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
1119 N. Wisconsin St. | Port Washington, WI 53074 | <http://heritageskillednursing.com/>

###