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## News Release

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### **Kelly Conrad of Harmony House Health Care Center takes home the Rhea McCandliss Professional Service Award**

**Waterloo, IA** – May 21, 2010 – Harmony House Health Care Center, Waterloo, IA, owned by ABC Corporation, Hampton, IA, announces that Kelly Conrad received the 2009 Rhea McCandliss Professional Service Award in recognition of her outstanding achievements in the field of Horticultural Therapy. This prestigious award is given by the [American Horticultural Therapy Association](#) based on length of service, distinctive and original programming, and public relations efforts on behalf of the field. Conrad has been a member of the association for 25 years.

The Horticultural Therapy program at Harmony House Health Care Center is the first of its kind in Iowa, and remains one of only five such programs in the state. Having worked over 10,000 hours of volunteer service throughout the United States to gain her certification, Conrad developed the Harmony House program literally “from the ground up.”

Conrad started out almost 17 years ago with a patch of land behind the Harmony House Health Care Center – a flat, grassy area at the time with not even a tree in sight – and turned it into a therapeutic oasis of flowering bushes, gardens, a pond and mature trees lining the property. Conrad began by obtaining her contractor’s license so she could build a 3,000 square-foot greenhouse to produce four crops per year and countless flowers and plant life.

Over the years, Conrad has enlisted the help of hundreds of dedicated volunteers throughout the Waterloo and Cedar Falls area to help her create a comfortable, nurturing setting for Harmony House residents. She serves 90 residents weekly through her unique programming, providing them opportunities to work on social, fine motor and verbal skills, and to interact with the public through plant sales and special events. Participation in the program is completely voluntary – residents drop in at their leisure, as little or as much as they want to.

“Horticultural Therapy is a very nonthreatening environment,” says Kelly Conrad, Harmony House Horticultural Therapist. “Working in this natural setting, individuals often recall found memories of times before their illness or injury. I get an opportunity to see things in these individuals that no one else has a chance to see. I find that very special and rewarding for us both.”

"Kelly is an amazing part of our Harmony House family," says Barbara Murphy, Harmony House Health Care Center administrator. "We have always known that she is a treasure of knowledge and skill, but it's great to see her colleagues acknowledge her achievements. We're all very proud to have her here."

Specializing in the treatment of traumatic brain injury, chronic respiratory failure, and adults with special needs, Harmony House Health Care Center develops individualized treatment plans with respect to unique strengths and abilities. The Harmony House living complex also provides a continuum of care through Danbury Circle, on-site independent and assisted living apartments. Residents are provided with opportunities to further develop their independence, while working toward the goal of transition back into the community.

Harmony House has recently completed numerous updates to their facility including the addition of a new Life Skills Learning Center and remodeled resident living areas.

### **ABCM Corporation**

Nationally recognized ABCM Corporation is one of the first organizations to advance the utilization of quality assurance personnel to help staff members improve the provision of care and services for the elderly, and remains committed to providing care that is sensitive, compassionate, promptly delivered, and cost-effective.

ABCM Corporation constructed Iowa's first modern care center in Hampton, opening the doors of the 50-bed home on April 29, 1963. Since then, ABCM Corporation has developed and acquired numerous health service programs including 30 nursing centers, 19 independent and assisted living programs, 10 outpatient therapy centers, a separate related durable medical supply corporation, and various other entities.

As a multi-service provider who strives to deliver top-quality programs unmatched in the state of Iowa, ABCM Corporation's care centers offer a Person Directed Care living environment, as well as a wide range of medical and rehabilitative services that specialize in Alzheimer's Care, Skilled Nursing, Bariatric Care and Nutritional Counseling, Traumatic Brain Injury Care, Ventilator Programs, Short-term and Adult Day Respite programs, Telephone Guardian Assurance, home and community-based meals and chore services, and more.