

For Immediate Release
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St. Joseph of Harahan Earns 2018 Bronze National Quality Award

Denham Springs, LA – St. Joseph of Harahan has been recognized as a 2018 recipient of the *Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award* for its commitment to improving the lives of residents through quality care. The distinction is the first of three progressive award levels through the National Quality Award Program, presented by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL), the leading association for long term and post-acute care. The program honors association members across the country that have demonstrated their dedication to improving quality of care for seniors and persons with disabilities.

“We are proud to be honored for our commitment to improving quality,” said Kelly Barber, Nursing Facility Administrator of St. Joseph of Harahan. “Working together to reach this milestone has made our team even better. We will not stop improving.”

The [National Quality Award Program](#), established by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, is based on the core values and criteria of the *Baldrige Performance Excellence Program*, which also serves as the foundation for the metric-based [AHCA/NCAL Quality Initiative](#). The Baldrige framework helps organizations among different business sectors improve organizational effectiveness and achieve strategy-driven performance.

The Award Program has three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Providers begin the quality improvement process at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile with essential performance elements such as vision, mission statement, and key strengths and challenges. Bronze applicants must also demonstrate their ability to implement a performance improvement system. Trained Examiners review each Bronze application to determine if the center has met the demands of the criteria. As a recipient of the *Bronze - Commitment to Quality Award*, Golden Age may now move forward in developing approaches and achieving performance levels that meet the *Silver - Achievement in Quality Award* criteria.

“I applaud St. Joseph of Harahan for taking this important step towards quality improvement,” said the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Board of Overseers Chair Alana Wolfe. “I encourage St. Joseph of Harahan to continue on its path to achieving superior outcomes.”

The awards will be presented during AHCA/NCAL’s 69th Annual Convention and Exposition in San Diego, California, October 7-10, 2018.

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ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represent more than 13,600 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit www.ahca.org or www.ncal.org.