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For Immediate Release

COLLABRIA CARE RECOGNIZES OUTSTANDING VOLUNTEERS

Collabria Care (formerly Napa Valley Hospice & Adult Day Services) celebrated the invaluable contributions of time, energy, enthusiasm and experience of its volunteers at their Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 19th, 2016. In order to provide care for over 2,500 patients and family members during life's most challenging transitions, Collabria Care relies upon the expertise, loving care, and positive spirit of over 130 volunteers. For this event the staff nominated volunteers who support every area of the organization. The festive occasion featured a Hawaiian theme.

Awards were presented from every department, with deep appreciation, in 6 areas: Hospice, Transitions, The Day Program, Teen Volunteer, General Office Support, and Community Liaison.

Collabria Hospice presented two individuals the award of Volunteer of the Year: Pat Conti and Therese Fisher. Ms. Conti has been a volunteer since 2005 and regularly visits multiple patients, always treating them as one of the highest priorities in her life. Ms. Fisher has donated her talent in creating beautiful hand woven baskets, her expertise in bringing Reiki to patients long before it was considered a complementary care offering, and her gentle, calming manner to all the patients she visits. Both of these individuals have earned the distinction of Hospice Volunteer of the Year.

Cheri Baily-Jacobs earned the honor of Collabria Palliative Care Volunteer of the Year in recognition of her service to the Transitions program, where she developed a process to chronicle the life stories of seriously ill patients. The results of her work provide great pride of life experience for patients and a true, lasting treasure for families.

The Collabria Day Program Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Darla Cook, who volunteers in the memory-stimulating classes *Mind Boosters* and *Reminiscing Group*, and also donates valuable time and expertise in program development.

Special recognition was given to the entire Horticultural Therapy team who have collectively donated over 38 years of service, and to the high school volunteers who have made The Day Program's intergenerational volunteer program thrive. Horticultural therapy volunteers are Sharron Huling, Frankie Block, Bobbie Leverette, Sheila Newberry, Jill Rowley, Janet Whitten, and Trisha Sullivan. Student volunteers are Ryan Berillo, Sebastian Segura, Parker Lake, Gladys Aguilar, Jessica DeLeon, Jada Giron, and Socorro Calderon.

The first-ever Teen Volunteer of the Year award was presented to Ryan Berilla, a senior at New Technology High School, in appreciation of the tremendous effort he put forth to help launch the agency's certified Music & Memory program, which benefits participants with Alzheimer's disease and other dementia at The Day Program.

A team that often works at the front desk and who feel like family to the staff were the joint recipients of the General Office Volunteer of the Year award: Danielle Brown and her adorable Chihuahua, Maria. Maria also serves as the honorary mascot of Collabria Care.

Chuck Morse received the honor of Community Volunteer of the Year in recognition of his tireless efforts to promote the agency wherever he goes. Mr. Morse, a former Collabria Care board member, provides a valuable commitment of time, energy, and help in soliciting endorsements for the annual Golf Tournament.

"We are incredibly grateful for the expertise of all of our volunteers," says Volunteer Resource Manager, Anne House. "These wonderful people who were just recognized represent only a fraction of the fabulous group of people who donate their time and talent to our organization. We humbly celebrate each of them tonight. And we lovingly thank our outstanding volunteers for giving so much to those in our community who depend upon our services."

If you would like to join the Collabria Care volunteer family, please contact Anne House at (707) 258-9084 ext. 206 or ahouse@collabriacare.org.