

For Immediate Release

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## **Lowman Employee and Resident Receive Prestigious Awards**

Lowman is proud to announce that the South Carolina Association of Non-Profit Homes for the Aging (SCANPHA) has chosen Mary Ruth Sims, CNA Supervisor, as a CNA of the Year and Marjorie Howarth, Lowman resident, as a Volunteer of the Year.

On July 2, 2007, Mary Ruth Sims will celebrate 45 years of continuous faithful service to Lowman and its residents. When she began working at Lowman in 1962, it was still a working farm with dairy and poultry production and expansive gardens that provided food for the residents and staff. Mary Ruth recalls that her duties ranged from shelling peas and frying chicken to assisting residents and cleaning rooms. “No one had specific job descriptions,” Mary Ruth remembers. “If it needed doing, folks just pitched in and got it done.”

Mary Ruth has offered love and commitment to hundreds of residents at Lowman over the past 45 years. Her coworkers describe her as patient, loving, loyal, caring, and unselfish. Dot Nivens, R.N., has worked with Mary Ruth for 30 years, says, “When I think of someone who has the heart of a caregiver, Mary Ruth is the first person to come to mind.”

Marjorie Howarth moved to Lowman’s independent apartments in 2002. The majority of her time is spent working at the front desk in the Daily Life Center where she answers phones, directs guests around the facility, assists residents with questions, and performs a variety of other clerical duties. She also acts as hostess for memorial services held at the Daily Life Center’s New Life Chapel, guiding visitors and handing out bulletins for the service. She has logged nearly 2,000 hours of volunteer time and many more hours off the clock.

A virtual one-person marketing department, Marjorie’s volunteer activities include keeping her home church, Redeemer Lutheran of Columbia, stocked with Lowman brochures; arranging visits and community tours for friends from all over the state; providing Lowman information to visitors; and informing all those she meets how happy she is to be at Lowman.

Mary Ruth and Marjorie were among the winners recognized at the Annual SCANPHA Conference in Savannah, Georgia on April 15, 2007. The awards banquet was held at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel located near Savannah’s historic district. After an elegant dinner, the awards program provided the audience with entertaining stories about each winner that illustrated their selfless dedication to enhancing the lives of seniors.

Darlene Dillard, assistant administrator at Lowman, was at the SCANPHA conference to present the awards to Mary Ruth and Marjorie. It was especially moving to see Marjorie push Mary Ruth, who was in a wheelchair due to recent knee surgery, to the front of the room to accept her award.

Lowman is fortunate and grateful to have these humble, hardworking individuals as part of our family. Please join us in congratulating these two wonderful ladies on their well-deserved awards!