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Annual National Nursing Assistant Week

STONY CREEK—June 10th through June 17th, 2010 is the 33rd Annual National Nursing Assistants Week, a nationwide celebration to publicly recognize and validate the role of the nursing assistant in the health care system.

For many years, nursing assistants have proudly served as the backbone of the medical and healthcare fields, tending to the elderly, physically or mentally challenged and for those in nursing homes, assisted living facilities and at home.

As a way to recognize these important caregivers during National Nursing Assistants Week, Personal Care Preferred Group (PCPG), a network of home healthcare companies servicing the Tri-Cities and Southside Virginia, will give gift bags to each of their approximately 375 home care aides and offer raffles for a large gift basket and a \$25 gift certificate to Applebee's and Cracker Barrel restaurants.

According to John Thurman, PCPG CEO, many people who need help taking care of themselves because of physical or mental disabilities prefer to stay at home and not reside in assisted living-type facility, but often there is no one at home to take care of them.

"That's where nursing aides play such a vital role," explained Thurman. "For those who want to stay at home, nursing aides fill the gaps when friends and family can't. They relieve the family burden of taking care of loved ones at home and assure that they are well taken care of and provided for."

The duties of an aide vary by client, but most can expect to help clients get out of bed, bathe, dress and groom. Some accompany clients to doctors' appointments or on other errands, while others clean clients' houses, do laundry and cook.

At PCPG, each aide is supervised by a registered nurse who provides detailed instructions explaining when to visit clients and what services to perform

for them. Aides may visit several clients in one day or work solely with one client who is in need of more care and attention.

“Regardless of their assignment, one thing nursing assistants have in common is that they provide the most hands-on care for those in need and improve the quality of life of the families they serve,” said Thurman. “National Nursing Assistants Week gives us an opportunity to collectively say thanks.”

For more information on National Nursing Assistants Week or to learn more about becoming a nursing assistant, please call Personal Care Preferred Group, at (800) 598-9854, or visit pcpgonline.com.

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