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## Nursing Home Artists Honored in 2012 Annual Calendar

*Proceeds from 2012 “Art from the Heart” Calendar Help Improve  
Quality of Life in New York State’s Long Term Care Facilities*

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**ALBANY, NY** – Art is a powerful medium of expression. Particularly for the aging, it can present an opportunity to open up to outsiders what may be a lifetime of inspirational images never before shared. Thirteen artists who happen to be residents of New York State nursing homes translated visions from their hearts and minds into winning entries of a juried art contest, now featured in a new 2012 calendar, “Art from the Heart.”

The annual calendar is the result of an art contest launched in 2004 by the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc., the New York State Health Facilities Association (NYSHFA) and the New York State Center for Assisted Living (NYSCAL). Residents of approximately 270 NYSHFA/NYSCAL member skilled nursing and assisted living facilities around the state were invited to submit artwork.

Proceeds from the calendar will help improve the quality of life for long term care residents at facilities across New York.

Each NYSHFA/NYSCAL member was encouraged to hold their own art contest and was invited to submit up to two pieces of original artwork by their residents. The response was overwhelming, with 87 pieces submitted from across New York state. The judges included representatives from the New York State Museum and the State University of New York University Art Museum.

Ranging in age from 49 to 99, the different backgrounds of the artists who submitted work creates a unique blend of artistic styles. Some are professional artists who have been drawing and painting their entire lives, while others discovered their talents after moving into a long term care facility where they began taking art classes.

“Our residents have shared such rich stories through their artwork,” said Richard S. Patterson, Jr., executive director of the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. “The ‘Art from the Heart’ calendar provides a forum for these talented and interesting individuals to shine.”

The 2012 “Art from the Heart” calendar can be purchased for \$12 by visiting [www.thefqc.org](http://www.thefqc.org) and [www.nyshfa.org](http://www.nyshfa.org). The websites also include a gallery of artwork featured in the “Art from the Heart” calendar.

Proceeds from the calendar benefit the Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. a non-profit, grant-supported organization that focuses on improving the quality of care and quality of life in New York State nursing homes.

***\*\*Photos of Artwork and Artists Available\*\****

**This Year’s “Art from the Heart” Art Contest Winners**

- Carl Champlin, Newark Manor Nursing Home, Newark, NY
- Frank Guerrero, Wingate at Beacon, Beacon, NY
- Dorothy Joyner, Four Seasons Nursing & Rehab. Center, Brooklyn, NY
- Ruth Maier, ElderWood Health Care At Maplewood, Cheektowaga, NY
- Duan-Rong Mou, Flushing Manor Care Center Inc., Flushing, NY
- Cecilia Polanski, Smithtown Center for Rehab & Nursing Care, Smithtown, NY
- Randall Rhines, Deaconess Skilled Nursing Facility, Buffalo, NY
- Marsha Shaberman, Tarrytown Hall Care Center, Tarrytown, NY
- Mary Skrocki, Alpine Rehabilitation & Nursing Center, Little Falls, NY
- Florence Teichner, Kingsway Arms Nursing Center Inc., Schenectady, NY
- Lorainne V., St. James Healthcare Center, St. James, NY
- Leopold Villegas, DeWitt Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, New York, NY
- John Zwolinski, The Dutch Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Centre, Rotterdam, NY

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*The Foundation for Quality Care, Inc. is a non-profit educational foundation affiliated with the New York State Health Facilities Association and the New York State Center for Assisted Living, a statewide, membership organization of approximately 270 licensed skilled nursing and assisted living facilities. The membership includes individual and multi-facility operations of proprietary, voluntary and government sponsorship. NYSHFA members, who care for nearly 44,000 New Yorkers, are dedicated to the highest standards of care and to the quality of life of their residents.*