

Diakonos Group Boasts 3 of 6 Facilities Finalist in 2017 Silver Spoon Competition

Oklahoma City, OK – Three chefs from Diakonos Group Long-Term Care Facilities have been named as finalist in the Fourth Annual Silver Spoon Culinary Competition presented by CARE Oklahoma and US Foods. Six chefs from Skilled Nursing and Long-Term Care Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities and Developmental Disabilities and Assisted Living Facilities across Oklahoma were chosen as finalists in the 2017 Silver Spoon Culinary Competition. The competition is comprised of three finalists from the “savory” category and three finalists from the “sweet” category. The 6 finalists were selected from approximately 30 applicants across the state of Oklahoma and will prepare their own original recipes at the US FOODS test kitchen in Oklahoma City on Friday, April 7, 2016.

The Fourth Annual Silver Spoon Culinary Competition showcases culinary skill, creativity and flair. It is intended to demonstrate the fantastic culinary talent that serves and cares for our seniors every day in Oklahoma’s Nursing, Intermediate Care and Assisted Living Communities. Each contestant was required to submit one recipe and an original photo of their plated dish. Each recipe submitted must have been prepared in a Nursing facility containing cooking ingredients used in regularly served facility dishes. Finalists will prepare their dishes in front of a panel of judges on April 7, 2017. The dishes will be judged on flavor, texture, creativity and appearance. The winner will be announced in Norman, Oklahoma on May 2, 2017 at the Spring convention of the Oklahoma Association of Health Care Providers and the Oklahoma Assisted Living Association.

Three Diakonos Group facility finalists will make the trip to Oklahoma City to serve up their flavorful recipes in the final competition.

April Steel, Morning Culinarian at Arbor Village, will prepare “Pork Carnitas” in the “savory” category. April Steel has been a chef serving the residents at Arbor Village for 3 years and loves mornings with the Arbor Village residents. April and her husband enjoy spending time with their 7 year old daughter.

John Harrison, Executive Chef for Diakonos Group, will spice things up in the “savory” category with his version of “Blue Corn Salmon topped with Green Chili Aioli” John has been cooking for 22 years and has been a finalist every year in the Silver Spoon competition. John enjoys being creative while finding new ways to garnish foods. John has been married for 13 years and has a nine-year-old son. John appreciates improving the quality of life for residents through customer service and food quality.

Craig Tyson, Director of Culinary Services at Westview Cottages, will be competing in the “sweet” category with his rendition of a “Chocolate Lava Brownie.” Originally from Guthrie, Oklahoma, Craig received his culinary education from the American Culinary Federation and has been spicing things up at Westview for 10 years. Craig is engaged to be married and loves to play pool, dominos and video games. Craig enjoys attending church and he is passionate about working hard and doing a great job preparing recipes for residents.

Diakonos Group is very proud to have Westview Cottages competing as a finalist in the 2017 Silver Spoon competition. This is the first time an Intermediate Care Facility for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities has had a finalist in the Silver Spoon competition. According to Diakonos Group CEO, Scott Pilgrim, “Having half of the finalist from one company is a testament to the level of importance that our team place on ‘the resident experience’ at our facilities. This includes that experience in our homes for individuals with intellectual disabilities, an often forgotten population.” “The culinary experience for our residents is something we are very passionate about,” says Kimberly Green, COO for Diakonos Group. “Delicious food can bring such joy to a person and we strive to do that for every resident in every facility every day,” says Green. Diakonos Group employs and trains fantastic culinary talent in each facility they operate to ensure residents are getting delicious, nutritious meals – always keeping the health of their residents top of mind. The Silver Spoon competition celebrates a love for food and a strong desire to help others enjoy life. These finalists will be turning up the heat serving savory eats and sweet treats at the US Foods kitchen on May 2nd.

About Diakonos Group

Diakonos Group is an award-winning Oklahoma owned and operated long-term care provider. It provides care at Arbor Village Nursing and Rehabilitation in Sapulpa; North County Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation and North County Assisted Living in Collinsville; Heartsworth Center for Nursing and Rehabilitation, Heartsworth Senior Suites and Heartsworth Assisted Living in Vinita; Franciscan Villa Nursing and Rehabilitation and Franciscan Villa Assisted Living in Broken Arrow; Bell Avenue Nursing Center in Elk City; Westview Cottages and Guthrie Cottages in Guthrie; Country Lane in Beggs; Park View Nursing Center in Muleshoe, TX. In 2017, Diakonos Group will open The Lodge at Brookline in Oklahoma City and Cross Timbers Nursing and Rehabilitation in Midwest City. And, in June Diakonos Group will open the doors to Beacon Ridge – a skilled nursing facility focused on serving the geriatric psych population in Sapulpa.