

Diakonos Group Facilities Place in 2016 Silver Spoon Competition

Edmond, OK – Five chefs from Diakonos Group long term care facilities have been named as finalist or alternates in the Third Annual Silver Spoon Culinary Competition presented by CARE Oklahoma and US Foods. Approximately 10 chefs from long-term care and assisted living facilities across Oklahoma are finalists in the 2016 Silver Spoon Culinary Competition. The competition is composed of five finalists from the “savory” category and five finalists from the “sweet” category. The 10 finalists were selected from more than 60 applicants and will prepare their own original recipes at the US FOODS test kitchen in Oklahoma City on Friday, April 1, 2016.

The Third Annual Silver Spoon Culinary Competition showcases culinary skill, creativity and flair. It is intended to demonstrate the fantastic culinary talent that cares for seniors every day in Oklahoma’s skilled nursing 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 long-term care facility containing cooking ingredients used in regularly served facility dishes. Finalists will prepare their dishes in front of a panel of judges on April 1, 2016. The dishes will be judged on flavor, texture, creativity and appearance. The winner will be announced in Norman, Oklahoma on April 26, 2016 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.

Angela Spivey, Director of Culinary Services at Duncan Assisted Living, will prepare “Chicken and Bacon Lasagna Roll Ups” in the “savory” category. Angela Spivey lives in Marlow, Oklahoma and has been a chef for 12 years. Angela loves what she does because she feels privileged to take care of others loved ones. Angela comes from a long line of chefs, as her Grandmother and Mother both worked in hospitals and long term care kitchens.

John Harrison, Executive Chef for Diakonos Group, will spice things up in the “savory” category with his version of “Jerked Chicken topped with Tropical Fruit Relish.” John has been cooking for 21 years and loves to find new ways to garnish foods. John has been married for 12 years and has a seven-year-old son. John appreciates improving the quality of life for residents through customer service and food quality.

Joel Herren, Director of Culinary Services at Ardmore Assisted Living, will turn up the heat baking “Cinnamon Roll Cake” in the “sweet” category. Originally from Tonkawa, Oklahoma, Joel received his culinary education twelve years ago from Pioneer Technology Center in Ponca City, Oklahoma. Joel’s favorite food to prepare is his Grandmothers famous “Chicken Enchiladas.” Joel’s Grandmother currently resides at Ardmore Assisted Living and he enjoys preparing their family recipes for residents while taking care of their dietary needs.

Two Diakonos Group facility alternates prepared excellent entries and will be ready to compete in the 2016 Silver Spoon competition should one of the finalists become unable to attend.

Glenda Aery, Director of Culinary Services at Tulsa Assisted Living and Memory Care entered her rendition of “Banana Bread with Cream Cheese Spread” in the “sweet” category. Avery lives in Tulsa with her two kids and three grand kids. She has been cooking for 34 years and loves to make cinnamon rolls. Glenda loves her job and taking care of others.

Diana Witt, Director of Culinary Services at Franciscan Villa submitted her version of “Cajun Crab Cakes with Red Pepper Aioli” in the “savory” category. Witt lives in Bixby with her husband and has a 9-year-old stepdaughter. Cooking for 17 years, Witt loves preparing good food for others to enjoy and loves to make cupcakes and cookies.

Competing with a passion for food and the desire to help others is really what the Silver Spoon Competition is all about. Serving good eats and savory treats is what is fueling the fire in the US Foods kitchen on April 1st. But, taking home the title of winner of the Third Annual Silver Spoon Competition would be sweet, as well.

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 and Broken Arrow Assisted Living in Broken Arrow; Tulsa Assisted Living in Catoosa; Bell Avenue Nursing Center in Elk City; Westview Cottages and Guthrie Cottages in Guthrie; Country Lane in Beggs; Ardmore Assisted Living; Duncan Assisted Living; Prairie Acres Nursing Center and Friona Heritage Estates in Friona, TX; and Park View Nursing Center in Muleshoe, TX. It will soon open The Lodge at Brookline in Oklahoma City and Cross Timbers Nursing and Rehabilitation in Midwest City.