

## The Gardens Earns 2018 Silver National Quality Award

**Cherokee, Iowa** – The Gardens Assisted Living has been recognized as a 2018 *Silver – Achievement in Quality Award* recipient by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL). The award is the second of three distinctions possible through the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Program, which spotlights providers across the nation that have demonstrated their dedication to improving quality of care for residents and patients in long term and post-acute care. The Gardens is 1 of 3 Assisted Living facilities in the state to ever win this award and 1 of only 166 long term care centers in the country.

“The Gardens Assisted Living is committed to implementing processes that better the lives of those we serve,” said Jana Utesch, Director of The Gardens Assisted Living “We are proud to receive the Silver award and look forward to continuing our efforts to improve quality.”

Based on the core values and criteria of the *Baldrige Performance Excellence Program*, AHCA/NCAL’s National Quality Award Program challenges member providers to achieve performance excellence through three progressive levels—Bronze, Silver, and Gold. At the Silver level, members develop and demonstrate effective approaches that help improve organizational performance and health care outcomes.

“This year’s Silver award recipients are positioned well to accomplish even better outcomes as they progress in their quality journey,” said Alana Wolfe, Chair of the AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Board of Overseers. “I commend The Gardens on this outstanding achievement.”

As a 2018 recipient of the Silver award, The Gardens can now advance in further developing comprehensive approaches that meet the criteria required for the Gold – Excellence in Quality Award.

The awards will be presented to honorees during AHCA/NCAL’s 69th Annual Convention & Expo in San Diego, California, October 7-10, 2018.

### ABOUT AHCA/NCAL

The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL) represent more than 13,600 non-profit and proprietary skilled nursing centers, assisted living communities, sub-acute centers and homes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By delivering solutions for quality care, AHCA/NCAL aims to improve the lives of the millions of frail, elderly and individuals with disabilities who receive long term or post-acute care in our member facilities each day. For more information, please visit [www.ahca.org](http://www.ahca.org) or [www.ncal.org](http://www.ncal.org).