



2024

**STARS AMONG US
AWARDS PROGRAM**



Call for Nominations

Entry Deadline: Wednesday, November 1, 2023



Dear Members,

The 2024 Stars Among Us Awards are open for nomination. More than ever before, these past couple of years has shown us the strength, resilience, and sheer dedication of our staff teams. Regardless of role, every one of our workers has given their all to serve older adults– and it is critical during workforce challenges to recognize those that give so much. Please help us celebrate the stars in your organization. Nominate as many people as you like and we will celebrate all of them at the 2024 Annual Conference & Expo.

Many times, at meetings as a member of the LeadingAge SC Awards Committee, I have heard how wonderful and appreciated the people and teams who are nominated feel and honored to be recognized for the efforts they put forth on a daily basis. I understand that our minds are occupied with schedules, staffing, tight budgets and the like – but submitting a nomination for the 2024 Stars Among Us Awards is something that will bring a great return where it counts – in the hearts and minds of your wonderful team.

Think of the moment a person or team is told they were nominated for a statewide award so they can be recognized for the contributions they have given. In a time when marketing and personnel budgets are tight, statewide recognition can also be a crucial factor for distinguishing your brand and enhancing employee satisfaction and retention. These awards are a cost-effective way to not only honor those that go above and beyond but to improve overall moral and help with retention and hiring. I encourage you to search all areas of your teams. From the volunteers, support staff, administration, residents and customers, to employers, board members and community connections. The things you take for granted in your community might just be a “shining star” for others.

Included in this brochure are descriptions of **seven individual awards and 3 organizational awards** along with information to help you write and submit a terrific nomination. These ten categories offer us a reason to honor inspiration!

We encourage you to honor the excellence of those around you. Share your stories of superior service, dedicated people, and innovative practices through a nomination in one or several of these categories. The recognition will benefit your organization, while touching the heart of your nominee and those who experience their goodness. The **deadline for all awards is November 1, 2023.**

Sincerely,

Russ

Russ Bell, Chairperson
LeadingAge South Carolina Awards Committee



HOW TO SUBMIT A NOMINATION

Individuals, organizations or groups are encouraged to submit nominations for the award categories. A nomination form is enclosed and may be photocopied for multiple nominations. Please use a separate form for each nomination. Each nomination should include:

- A completed nomination form
- A cover letter explaining why you believe the nominee should be considered for the award
- Letters of recommendation and other materials supporting the nomination

THE AWARDS PROCESS

The LeadingAge South Carolina Awards Committee reviews the nominations and selects the winners. The Committee is comprised of a cross-section of Association members. Award recipients will be notified following approval by the Committee. All nominations must be received at the LeadingAge South Carolina office no later than November 1, 2023 in order to be considered.

AWARD CATEGORIES

Award of Honor

The Association's most prestigious award will be presented to an individual who has made a unique and/or exceptional contribution to LeadingAge South Carolina and their work has impacted the industry of aging services with excellence.

Criteria:

- The nominee may be a Board member, employee of a member organization or other party who has made a significant contribution to LeadingAge South Carolina
- This award recognizes exceptional and unique service and may not necessarily be given every year
- Award winner will be announced at the 2024 Annual Conference & Expo

Business Member of the Year Award

Presented to a LeadingAge South Carolina Business Member that has contributed to the work of the Association and/or its members.

Criteria:

- Participation on LeadingAge SC committees
- Support or sponsorship of programs and events
- Contributions to the well-being of South Carolina's seniors through corporate charitable work and volunteer efforts



Community Service Award

Presented to a member facility or organization that operates an established, outstanding program of community services.

Criteria:

- Must be innovative and contain elements of outreach from community to facility and/or facility to commitment
- Involves board, residents and staff
- Must be a member facility or organization, not an individual

Excellence in Caring Award – Caregiver

Presented to a caregiver employed by a LeadingAge South Carolina member organization who has demonstrated an exceptional proficiency in the delivery of quality resident care services to the residents of the organization. This category includes, but is not limited to, RNs, LPNs, and CNAs.

Criteria:

- The recipient of this award will have demonstrated skills, both professional and interpersonal, that exceeded expectations
- Examples of a candidate's exceptional contributions to the organization, the organization's residents, or other staff members of the organization, which resulted in the delivery of quality services to the residents of the organization, must accompany nominations in this category.
- Caregiver employees must have been employed for the last two consecutive years with their current employer/member organization

Excellence in Caring Award – Support and Service Staff

Presented to a support staff member employed by a LeadingAge South Carolina member organization who has demonstrated an exceptional proficiency in the performance of his or her job responsibilities. This category includes, but is not limited to, dietary, housekeeping, laundry, maintenance, social services, pastoral care, activities personnel and office staff. **(Administrators, CEOs, Executive Directors, Housing Managers, and Service Program Directors are not eligible.)**

Criteria:

- The recipient of this award will have demonstrated skills, both professional and interpersonal, that exceeded expectations.
- Examples of a candidate's exceptional contributions to the organization, in the performance of his or her job responsibilities, must accompany nominations in this category.
- All support and service staff employees must have been employed for the last two consecutive years with their current employer/member organization.



Excellence in Leadership Award

Presented to an outstanding member of the governing board of a LeadingAge South Carolina member organization.

Criteria:

- Years of service, positions filled
- Service “beyond the call of duty”
- Financial contributions
- Evidence of personal preparation to enhance enlightened governance and other community involvement

Heart & Hands Award

Presented to an employee of a LeadingAge South Carolina provider member organization who promotes resident choice and autonomy.

Criteria:

- Demonstrates exceptional relationships(s) with a resident(s) or client(s)
- Relationship should provide special enrichment and increased quality of life to the resident(s) or client(s) through efforts beyond those normally considered within the position’s job description.

Innovation of the Year Award

Award recognizes an innovative “best practice” program or service in a long-term care or senior housing community.

Criteria:

- The program or service may focus on new directions in caregiving, expanding service options for residents and the local community, engaging outside agencies in mutually beneficial program, service or outreach partnerships, or other outstanding initiatives that promote and enhance quality of life for senior residents, staff and/or the surrounding community
- Winner(s) will be announced and invited to display their innovative program or service at the 2023 Annual Conference & Expo



Outstanding Leader Award:

Presented to an employee of a LeadingAge South Carolina provider member organization to honor a person whose leadership is demonstrated through vision, servanthood, mentoring others, and commitment to older adults. This leadership award is open to individuals in any service setting, at any level of the organization regardless of title, role or tenure. Think creatively about experienced and emerging leaders in all areas of your organization.

Criteria:

- Leadership expressed through vision, integrity and courage to improve the lives of older adults
- Actions that demonstrate characteristics of a strong mentor and motivator for others
- Specific example of this person engaging and influencing others in advancing change
- Share a story that illustrates this person's exceptional leadership in action
- One letter of support from the nominee's supervisor, site leader or board member
- One or more additional letters of support from team members, residents, or community members (minimum one; up to three)

Volunteer Service Award

Presented annually to an individual or group who has given time and resources to a LeadingAge South Carolina member facility, simply for the love of giving, for the benefit of the home and community.

Criteria:

- The quality of services and proficient use of talents should be considered as important as the number of hours/years served or offices held
- May be an auxiliary, a concerned member of the community or a resident volunteer

LeadingAge South Carolina Award Nomination
(Please duplicate this form for each nominee)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Award of Honor | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Leadership Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Member of the Year Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Heart & Hands Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community Service Award | <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation of the Year Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Caring Award – Caregiver | <input type="checkbox"/> Outstanding Leader Award |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Excellence in Caring Award – Support & Service Staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Service Award |

All entries must be received in the LeadingAge South Carolina office or postmarked by **midnight, November 1**. Carefully follow the award criteria for your nomination in preparing your supporting documents. Be as specific as possible. Letters of recommendation from others are encouraged.

Nominee Information:

Name: _____ Title (if applicable): _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ FAX: _____ Email: _____

* If selected to receive this award, will your nominee be present to accept the award? Yes No

Nominator Information:

Submitted by: _____
Organization: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ Zip: _____
Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Ways to Nominate:

Mail this form with your letter of nomination and support letters or other material as indicated in the award criteria to:

LeadingAge SC Awards Program Nomination Application **Email:** KSouth@leadingagesc.org
3022 S Morgan Point Road #250
Mount Pleasant, SC 29466

Questions: Email: KSouth@leadingagesc.org or call 843.518.1131

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