FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mercy LIFE and Mercy LIFE – West Philadelphia Among First to Earn Nationwide Designation for Exemplary Care for Seniors
Mercury LIFE – West Philadelphia also earns national designation for nursing excellence

Philadelphia, PA (February 1, 2017) - Mercy LIFE and Mercy LIFE – West Philadelphia are among the first PACE (Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) programs in the country to receive the NICHE (Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) designation, and Mercy LIFE – West Philadelphia recently achieved the Pathway to Excellence redesignation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

The NICHE program is designed to help healthcare organizations provide exemplary care for seniors through resources that support patient-centered care. Achieving NICHE designation signals an organization’s dedication to improving the care of older adult patients.

The Pathway to Excellence designation identifies work areas where nurses can flourish and feel empowered in ways that help them excel in their careers. The designation substantiates nursing job satisfaction and helps organizations attract dedicated nurses who support business growth and champion high-quality nursing practices.

“Both the NICHE and Pathways designations demonstrate our continued progress in enhancing patient experience, creating an enriching workplace and supporting our community,” said Carol Quinn, CEO of Mercy Home Health, Mercy LIFE and Mercy LIFE – West Philadelphia. “We do everything we can to ensure our elders receive the highest quality of comprehensive medical, physical, social and spiritual care to meet their individual needs and to ensure our nurses excel and feel valued as integral members of our health care teams.”

NICHE

NICHE, based out of NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing, has over 680 healthcare facilities in 46 states, Canada, Bermuda and Singapore. The program, which began in 1992, is the leading nurse-driven initiative designed to help hospitals and healthcare organizations improve the care of older adults.

NICHE provides healthcare organizations with:

- Access to a community of NICHE hospitals and facilities to share experiences and evidence-based practices
- Collaboration with over 20,000 healthcare providers in the NICHE network on important geriatric issues
- Access to geriatric-specific online courses and hundreds of webinars, project management tools and other resources to develop and support quality in geriatric care
- Ability to implement NICHE organizational strategies and clinical protocols that help improve patient and staff satisfaction, lower costs and meet today's quality metrics

(more)
Pathway to Excellence

The Pathway to Excellence designation is granted based on the confirmed presence of the Pathway to Excellence Practice Standards, including:

- Nurses Control the Practice of Nursing
- The Work Environment is Safe and Healthy
- Professional Development is Provided & Used
- Nurse Managers are Competent & Accountable
- A Quality Program & Evidence-Based Practice are Used

For an organization to earn the Pathway to Excellence distinction, it must successfully undergo a thorough review process that documents foundational quality initiatives in creating a positive work environment as defined by nurses and supported by research. These initiatives must be integrated in the facility's practices, policies and culture. Nurses in the organization validate the presence of the criteria in the organization through participation in a completely voluntary and confidential online survey.

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About Mercy LIFE:

Mercy LIFE is a nationally recognized Program of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) that offers older adults a total solution for long-term care. The program provides medical and social services, at home and at the Mercy LIFE Day Centers, helping older adults maintain their independence. Mercy LIFE has provided community based long-term care in South Philadelphia since 2001, in North Philadelphia since 2009, to residents throughout Delaware County since January 2014, and most recently, the West Philadelphia community in 2016. Mercy LIFE – West Philadelphia, formally LIFE UPenn, is managed by Trinity MSO Pennsylvania (TMSO-P). TMSO-P is composed of colleagues from Trinity Health PACE and Mercy LIFE. Visit www.mercylife.org for more information.