Health Care Observances for 2017

It takes a village to support the residents that you and your colleagues serve each day. Professionals from activities, housekeeping, maintenance, dietary, social services, administration and more join the direct care workers and medical team to ensure residents are well cared for and have a good home. In many cases, nursing home staff are like family to the residents.

It is hard to remember to acknowledge and thank everybody, every day, even if the sentiment is there. Fortunately, there are dedicated health care observances throughout the year to give residents and staff an opportunity to recognize each individual who makes a significant contribution to the family atmosphere in the nursing home.

Before each observance, work with the administrative office to confirm the names of the appropriate staff for each recognition. Then, work with the residents to plan for the celebration. Review Close-Up, Number 840 for helpful ideas to make celebrations and recognition meaningful.

Here are dates to keep in mind for 2017:

**January** 22-28th, 2017 is National Activity Professionals Week, including National Activity Professionals Day on January 27, 2017.

**February** is Therapeutic Recreation Month, and the first week of February is Patient Recognition Week.

**March** is Social Work Month, Employee Appreciation Day is March 3, 2017. Long Term Care Administrators Week is March 12-17, 2017. March 12-18, 2017 is also Health Care Human Resources Week! March 30, 2017 is National Doctors Day.

**April** is Occupational Therapy Month. National Volunteer Week is April 23-29th, 2017. April 26, 2017 is Administrative Professionals Day.

**May** is Older Americans Month. May 6-12th, 2017 is National Nurses Week, followed by National Nursing Home Week May 14-20th, 2017. The theme for Nursing Home Week this year is “The Spirit of America.”

**June** honors Nursing Assistants with Nursing Assistants Day on June 15, 2017, and the 40th
Annual Nursing Assistants Week June 15-22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017.

August 23-29<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is Health Unit Coordinator Recognition Week.

September 10-16<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is National Environmental Services and Housekeeping Week. National Rehabilitation Awareness Week is September 17-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017.

October is Pharmacists Month and National Physical Therapy Month. October 4-10<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is National Healthcare Foodservice Workers Week. October 9-14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is National Recognition Week for Hemodialysis Technicians. October 22-28<sup>th</sup>, 2017 is National Respiratory Care Week and Pastoral Care Week.

November is National Family Caregivers Month and Hospice and Palliative Care Month.

There are other members of the nursing home community that may not fit into one of these recognition holidays. Get creative! Find a way to celebrate every person that makes a contribution. Do a Google search to find other recognition days to honor them, or dedicate a day in your activity calendar to honor other key staff or members of the nursing home community. Don’t forget to share pictures throughout your celebrations with HCCI. E-mail pictures and stories to Amanda Ginther at aginther@hccil.org. Please be sure that any residents pictured have appropriate photo releases.