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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Local Dementia Care Facility Honors National Alzheimer's Awareness Month through Free Workshop and Support Group

Brodheadsville, Pa., November 19, 2009- November is National Alzheimer's Awareness Month. In honor of this observance and to keep families well-informed about how to identify, treat and cope with this condition, Wesley Enhanced Living (WEL) at Chestnut Hill Manor, an assisted living and dementia care facility located at 30 Weir Lake Road, Brodheadsville, PA, will host experts from the Alzheimer's Association Greater Pennsylvania Chapter who will offer an informational workshop that is free and open to the public. Scheduled for Tuesday, November 24, from 2-3:30 p.m., the workshop, entitled "*Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going*," will feature a discussion about Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, including tips for maintaining memory, the importance of early diagnosis, warning signs, current treatment options and research trends.

"We are pleased to host this important workshop. It helps us to broaden our outreach to caregivers, who we regularly support through a free, monthly dementia support group," says Gail Martini, administrator at WEL at Chestnut Hill Manor.

As an established professional in the aging services industry, Martini helps families understand when, why and how to seek help if they detect memory loss in a loved one.

"Alzheimer's and dementia are nondiscriminatory diseases; they can strike anyone. It is incredibly important for older adults to recognize the early warning signs of these diseases and take part in early screening, as treatment options are more effective the sooner they are started," she says.

According to Martini, some early warning signs that signal an individual should seek medical guidance include: feelings of confusion, increased and persistent forgetfulness, disorientation and difficulty performing simple and familiar tasks such as finding the right word, not recognizing numbers, forgetting surroundings and loss of verbal communication skills.

Caring for a loved one who suffers from memory loss can be stressful. Martini emphasizes that it's a good idea to seek support from family, friends, neighbors, adult day care centers and organizations like the Alzheimer's Association. Additionally, Martini encourages caregivers to join WEL at Chestnut Hill Manor's free dementia support group. The group, which meets on the first Saturday of each month at 1:30 p.m., gives caregivers the chance to receive advice and support from professionals in the aging services field, as well as connect with peers who are in a similar situation. For more information about the dementia support group, caregivers can call 570-990-6050.

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About Wesley Enhanced Living (WEL)

Wesley Enhanced Living (WEL) continuing care retirement communities are non-profit, faith-based living environments with a mission to deliver a purposeful life to residents. Serving over 1,000, with more than 600 employees throughout Pennsylvania, the Wesley Enhanced Living communities in Doylestown, Hatboro, Pennypack Park, Burholme and Brodheadsville provide various combinations of independent living, personal care services, dementia care, and skilled nursing services. The organization also manages two HUD subsidized housing facilities for seniors, Meadow House and Manor Glen, in the Philadelphia region. Wesley Enhanced Living is headquartered in Southampton, Pennsylvania. For more information, call: 215.354.0565, or visit www.wel.org or www.facebook.com/wesleyenhancedliving.