



Aging Services *of Minnesota*

LEADING CHANGE ■ CHANGING LIVES

NEWS RELEASE

February 18, 2011

Contact: Barbara Landeen
Aging Services of Minnesota
651.645.4545 Ext. 3522
Email: blandeen@agingservicesmn.org

Ebenezer Receives Distinguished Minnesota Aging Services Excellence & Innovation Award at Statewide Convention

Ebenezer, an organization headquartered in Minneapolis that provides choices for vibrant senior living, is a 2011 recipient of the distinguished Aging Services of Minnesota Excellence & Innovation Award. The highly competitive award is given to older adult service provider organizations for their excellence in developing new and innovative service delivery programs that benefit their residents and communities. Ebenezer was one of five organizations to receive the award at the Aging Services annual Institute conference, held in Minneapolis Feb. 9-11 for its *Dancing Heart* program. Ebenezer is a not for profit organization that provides access throughout Minnesota to a full range of senior housing options, community-based programs and medical care. Part of Fairview Health Services, it operates in communities throughout the state offering the continuum of services from home care and independent living to assisted living, memory care and skilled nursing care.

Ebenezer collaborated with the Kairos Dance Theatre to create the *Dancing Heart* program in five of their senior living communities. This pioneering, evidence-based arts program blends chair dancing, storytelling and singing to stabilize and improve the cognitive and physical health of participants, delay some progression of dementia and engage participants socially and emotionally. The social interaction has an even more profound effect, helping residents find new ways to express themselves, improving depression and being more engaged with family, friends and the community.

Aging Services of Minnesota is the state's largest older adult services trade association representing over 700 providers of the complete continuum of services in settings from their homes to congregate housing to assisted living to skilled care centers. Aging Services members collectively work with over 50,000 caregivers throughout the state and serve more than 100,000 seniors each year

Each year Aging Services member organizations from throughout Minnesota submit nominations for the awards. The awards are presented during the association's three-day annual conference in Minneapolis, the largest of its kind in the upper Midwest, which draws nearly 4,000 caregivers and organizations in older adult services settings throughout the state.

About Ebenezer

For over 90 years, Ebenezer has provided compassionate, community-centered care for older adults and others in need. Partnering with Fairview Health Services in 1995, the combined resources and expertise of Ebenezer and Fairview allow older adults throughout Minnesota to access a full range of choices for vibrant senior living; coordinated programs and services including senior housing, condominiums and cooperatives, assisted living, transitional and long-term care, adult and intergenerational programs and a variety of community-based services.

www.fairviewebenezer.org

###