

## 2009 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – LOTS OF EDUCATION, NETWORKING AND CELEBRATION!

It's a wrap! The association's 2009 Annual Conference was a great success, and we'd like to thank our attendees, speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and advertisers for their participation.

The conference opened with a dynamic and exciting keynote address by Francis Battisti entitled, "The 7 Insights from the Heart and Mind of Checchino...for Individual and Organizational Transformation." In the sunset of his father's life, Francis had the opportunity to reflect on the teachings and principles that he, Checchino, had offered throughout their time together. The Seven Insights offer teachings that can assist organizations and individuals with creating a resident-centered quality of living environment.

Over the next day and a half, attendees also had the opportunity to participate in a number of exciting educational offerings on a wide variety of topics including the state of the economy and the impact on providers; disaster preparedness; technology applications; the Green House<sup>®</sup> model of care; investigating resident incidents; understanding, improving and defending your quality measure score; ethical issues in fundraising; culture change; marketing opportunities; conducting a hazard vulnerability analysis; and developing a comprehensive plan for employee health.

In addition, Aging Services of Maine and New Hampshire was proud to host Larry Minnix, President and CEO of the American Association of Homes & Services for the Aging, who offered a special general session on "Hope in the Face of Our Challenges." In the face of tough economic times, the work of associations becomes ever more important. Larry shared AAHSA's strategies to help providers with their needs, advance their interests, and secure their future and that of those being served.

Conference attendees had the opportunity to spend time with exhibitors during the trade show which featured a wide variety of products and services for providers such as dining services; facility development/planning/management; financing/financial services; furniture; insurance; medical supplies/pharmacy; interiors (flooring and bathing products); resident care services; and many innovative technology products. Please feel free to contact Rosie Goedtel at [rgoedtel@agingservicesmenh.org](mailto:rgoedtel@agingservicesmenh.org) for a complete list of exhibitors and their contact information.

In 2009, Aging Services of Maine and New Hampshire (formerly the Northern New England Association of Homes & Services for the Aging) celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and we were so pleased to recognize the former chairpersons at the dinner on Wednesday, May 20. Denise Vachon, Chairperson of the association, was honored to receive a Chair's Citation from Mr. Minnix on behalf of AAHSA Chairperson Tom Slemmer in recognition of Aging Services' silver anniversary. And Ms. Vachon also took the opportunity at the dinner to extend thanks and gratitude to Nancy Hooks, AAHSA Regional Vice President, for the invaluable assistance she has provided to the association for the past eight years.

In addition, this year the association introduced an awards program, and the following presentations were made during the dinner program – "Trustee of the Year" to Ella A. Erway, Resident Member of the Board of Directors of Kendal at Hanover, Hanover, NH; "Innovation of the Year" to the Salon and Day Spa, The Cedars in Portland, ME; and "Meritorious Service" to Christie Hallock, Chief Executive Officer of The Huntington at Nashua, Nashua, NH. Our congratulations again to each of the award recipients!

The dates for the 2010 Annual Conference will be announced in the fall. Additional educational programming will be announced soon, too, so watch this site for more information!