THE ENTERPRISE
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Personal care assistant who graduated are (left to right): Kenneth Jones, Betty Wright, Samantha Holt, Beth Scott, Latasha Carter, Sherri Horton, Becky Wyatt, Pam McAlexander, Sharon Adl-Doost, Stadie Nowlin, Shaleta Reynolds, and Marcy Adl-Doost. (Not pictured: Instructor Darla Thompson, RN of Team Nurse, Inc.)

New personal care assistants certified

Twelve local residents completed training and were certified as personal care assistants on Friday, January 12. This training prepares graduates to assist home-bound patients with basic daily activities and is made possible by a partnership of the Patrick County Education Foundation and Team Nurse, Inc.

Instructor for this class was Darla Thompson, R.N., of Team Nurse.

The foundation and Team Nurse first began offering free PCA training for Patrick residents in June 2005. This was the sixth PCA class trained through this partnership. All classroom and clinical instruction is provided by Team Nurse. The foundation funds all training costs and provides free classroom facilities.

"Fifty-eight PCAs have now been trained through our partnership," said Jerry Hughes, executive director of the foundation. "This is one of our most successful projects. Through it, we raise the education level of our citizens, increase the supply of trained basic home care providers available in our community, and improve the job-skills and marketability of its graduates.

Hughes added, "Many of our PCA graduates have gone on for further training, either as certified nursing assistants or in other fields. As our county's population ages, the need for PCAs will grow. We are excited to be able to work with Team Nurse to help meet that need and at the same time, provide opportunities for our graduates to create a better life for themselves and their families."