

PATRICK COUNTY EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Press Release

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Eleven Personal Care Assistants Graduate From Patrick County Education Foundation Program

Eleven Patrick County residents recently successfully completed 40 hours of training required to become certified Personal Care Assistants. The Personal Care Assistant (PCA) training was provided at no cost to County residents by the Patrick County Education Foundation and prepares students to assist patients receiving home care with activities of daily living such as grooming, bathing, and meal preparation.

Graduates of the training are eligible for employment as Personal Care Assistants with any home health agency in Virginia that offers patient personal care services. This training is required for agencies to receive Medicaid-reimbursement of these non-medical home health care services. Instruction for the program was provided by Team Nurse, Inc., a licensed personal home care provider with offices in Southside Virginia and North Carolina. MediHome Care, Inc. provided durable medical equipment for the class.

“We are pleased to have this opportunity to fulfill a need for training residents for entry into the health care field,” stated Gerald L. Hughes, Jr., Executive Director of the Patrick County Education Foundation. “We were able to provide value directly to these eleven graduates in the form of certification and specialized training that they can take with them when seeking

employment with home health care agencies that provides personal care services to their clients. At the same time, we were able to assist a local business in meeting its need for certified PCA staff. This is an excellent example of how the Foundation can respond relatively quickly when basic job training needs arise in the County. We would be happy to offer this course again in the future when the need exists.”

The Patrick County Education Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization begun in 2001 as an economic development initiative focused on raising the education level of the Patrick County workforce. As part of its Workforce Training Program, the Foundation provides effective workforce training programs to prepare adult workers for jobs in the high-growth fields of today and tomorrow. To-date, the Foundation has committed more than \$145,000 to fund innovative workforce training programs for County adults. The Patrick County Education Foundation is solely supported through the generous contributions of individuals, organizations and corporations and through private and public grants. Persons wishing to learn more about the Foundation’s programs or to make a donation may call (276) 694-7233.

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