

Hired Hands Homecare achieves Home Care Aide Organization Certification

HIRED HANDS HOMECARE

Hired Hands Homecare has recently received the prestigious 'Home Care Aide Organization Certification' from the California Association for Health Services at Home (CAHSAH).

What does this mean for seniors and their families? Usually, seniors and families access in-home care after an urgent or crisis situation has occurred. Because there is little time to investigate and research proper options, families often settle on the first available agency or individual caregiver. Furthermore, many initial consumers of home care services do not understand the right questions to ask as they are looking for the most suitable service provider. This could have significant consequences in the long run.

Did you know that Home Care Aide Organizations are the only unlicensed, unregulated health care services in California? In fact, the only requirement to provide home care services in a person's home is a business license. As home care continues to become the nation's fastest growing industry, Hired Hands Homecare and CAHSAH strive to promote the utmost in quality care.

Achieving this Certificate required a thorough review of business practices, and mirrors many of the same criteria that are used in states that require licensure for the home care industry. Certification requires proof of high limit general and professional liability insurance. Certified agencies must actually employ their caregivers, instead of mis-classifying them as Independent Contractors. As the official employer of record, we provide workers' compensation insurance for all

caregivers. Hired Hands Homecare runs pre-employment criminal background checks that adhere to strict standards. This is much more detailed than some of the standard internet background checks, and is specifically designed to thoroughly check into an applicant's past prior to hiring. Other criteria for certification include proof of a criminal/dishonesty bond, pre-employment TB test and a clear agreement provided to clients that discloses how fees are specified.

This Certification Program was developed to create minimum standards for the home care industry. These standards seek to protect the consumer, while forming a solid basis for providing the highest level of care. Without oversight and accountability, many consumers and family members pay the price as they place caregivers into their loved one's homes, believing the person entering their home has been thoroughly screened, trained and properly insured. Unfortunately, without regulations, there remains much dis-information in regards to what protections are actually provided to the consumer, as well as their rights, responsibilities and potential liabilities.

Hired Hands Homecare is family owned & operated, and has provided the North Bay's most reliable and trustworthy care since 1994. Customer Service and satisfaction are the cornerstones of our operations, and we will see to it that all of our clients receive the best possible care. In this day and age of uncertainty, we felt that achieving this important Certification is another important step

in consumer protection, while further raising our standards of care.

Hired Hands is proud to be recognized as an exemplary Homecare agency in California and is confident in our ability to provide valuable services throughout the community. To learn more about Hired Hands Homecare, please visit www.HiredHandsHomecare.com. You may also reach us at one of our three offices:

- Marin County's Novato Office: 415-884-4343
- Napa County's Napa Office: 707-265-6400
- Sonoma County's Santa Rosa Office: 707-575-4700

AND, This Just In... Hired Hands Homecare steps up in the fight against Alzheimer's Disease. Hired Hands cares about the health of our community. That's why we've recently joined the **Alzheimer's Early Detection Alliance (AEDA)**, a group of corporations, nonprofits and government entities determined to make a difference in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. Under the leadership of the Alzheimer's Association, this alliance will work to educate people nationwide about the warning signs of Alzheimer's disease and the importance of early detection.

As a member of the AEDA, Hired Hands Homecare will work to provide reliable information about Alzheimer's disease and early detection during the upcoming months. If you or a loved one is affected by Alzheimer's disease, turn to the Alzheimer's Association or Hired Hands Homecare for support and services. Information is available online at www.alz.org or by calling the Association's 24/7 Helpline at 1.800.272.3900. ■

