



For immediate release

Cypress HomeCare Solutions' Director of Memory Care Programs, Michelle Cornelius, wins fellowship from Hospice of the Valley

Phoenix, AZ, January 15, 2018 – Michelle Cornelius has been selected to participate in Hospice of the Valley's Dementia Care Fellowship program for 2018. Cornelius has been the Director of Memory Care Programs at Cypress HomeCare Solutions since September of 2015. She has implemented a dementia training program for Cypress caregivers, a family support and education program for the family members of those diagnosed, and provides public educational sessions. Cornelius supports the Cypress mission by working with caregivers and family members of people with dementia to assist them to continue to age in the comfort of their own homes for as long as possible.

Hospice of the Valley is a not-for-profit provider of palliative and hospice care, caring for more than 18,000 people a year in Maricopa and northern Pinal counties. The agency serves people at all stages of dementia.

Fifteen individuals were chosen, including nurses, educators, social service providers, physicians and other leaders who work with people with dementia. They and their respective organizations each will receive \$5,000 to support a sustainable change project. Cornelius will be developing a training program using improvisation guidelines for caregivers of persons with dementia.

Cornelius' selection for this fellowship allows her to expand the audience of people she can share her dementia knowledge with. In addition to her existing clients and the local community, Cornelius has been given the opportunity to share the tools she's developing with people across the nation and even the world. With so many home care agencies in the Valley, Cypress has established itself as a dynamic, progressive organization that stays up-to-date on the latest dementia care research and trends for caregivers. This fellowship will allow Cypress to continue to grow and evolve as an agency.

"Learning to communicate with and work with people with dementia doesn't come naturally to most people as they're used to communicating with the person in the same manner that they did before they were diagnosed. Hospice of the Valley's Dementia Care Fellowship gives me the wonderful opportunity to develop a program that gives caregivers the knowledge and tools to more effectively communicate with the people they care for," says Cornelius.

Cypress HomeCare Solutions is located at 5225 N. Central Ave. Suite 212 Phoenix, Arizona 85012. For more information visit cypresshomecare.com or contact Kathleen Shiman at Kathleen@cypresshomecare.com or 602-264-8009.