

WAYNE COUNTY NURSING HOME
1529 Nye Road
Lyons, New York 14489

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Margaret T. Haroff
Administrator
MTHaroff@Co.Wayne.NY.US
(315) 946- 5673

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wayne County Nursing Home Exemplifies Model in PBS Documentary *Almost Home* Demonstrates Movement Already in Place at WCNH

Lyons, New York, January 6, 2006 ---- Nursing home residents respond favorably to warmth, love, a positive environment and pretty surroundings – the kinds of things one would hope to find in a real home. The results are fewer behavior problems, an improved quality of life, dignity and respect. Wayne County Nursing Home officials incorporated this forward thinking in the design of their new facility in Lyons, called the Household Model, and is one of the few nursing homes in the nation to be ahead of the trend portrayed in *Almost Home*. The Independent Lens documentary *Almost Home* will air Tuesday, February 21st, on WXXI-TV at 10p.m.

Almost Home is a stunningly intimate feature-length, cinema verité film that follows the stories of residents, families and workers in a Midwestern nursing home as they struggle with the personal challenges of aging while trying to transform their century-old hospital-like institution into a true home.

In the Wayne County Nursing Home Household Model, the old "hospital" model that became so prevalent in nursing facilities throughout the nation in the 1960s is gone, along with large central nursing stations with residents parked in geri-chairs, long hallways, and the noise of carts and equipment.

The Household Model replaces this with a home. The households consist of small groups of residents, and each household is designed to resemble a traditional family home - a radical departure from the "hallways" concept that exists in almost all nursing homes throughout the nation. The result is more privacy for residents, a calm, quiet environment, a

sense of normalcy, and more chances to interact in quality relationships with fellow residents, staff, and family.

Amenities in each of the smaller units include laundry, recreation and dining areas, for a more intimate and relaxing environment.

A stunningly intimate documentary shot on location in a nursing home, *Almost Home* tells the unflinchingly honest stories of couples both bonded and divided by disability and dementia, children torn between caring for their parents and caring for their children, nursing assistants doing unsavory work for poverty wages, healthy elders fearful of moving to the dreaded nursing home, and a visionary nursing home director committed to transforming his century-old hospital-like institution into a true home.

Wayne County Nursing Home is one of only a few nursing homes in the fourteen-county Finger Lakes area of New York State to adopt what is known as the Pioneer Movement, a trend all facilities are going for in new builds in last 6-7 years.

The Wayne County Nursing Home, a public facility licensed by the New York State Department of Health, is a 190 bed skilled nursing facility located at 1529 Nye Road, Lyons, New York. Wayne County Board of Supervisors has a 175-year history of providing facilities to care for residents in need.

END