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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Heritage Green and Heritage Park Celebrate 20 Years with Heritage Ministries

[Greenhurst and Jamestown, NY] – On January 30, Heritage Green and Heritage Park celebrated their 20th anniversaries of being part of Heritage Ministries. Local officials, including Senator Catharine Young, a representative from Congressman Tom Reed’s office, Assemblyman Andrew Goodell, County Executive Vince Horrygan, Jamestown City Mayor Samuel Teresi, and other local officials were present to help Heritage celebrate the occasion.

On January 1, 1995, Heritage Ministries acquired two healthcare centers in the Jamestown area, formerly the Fenton Park Nursing Home (Jamestown) and the Greenhurst Nursing Home (Greenhurst). Fenton Park Nursing Home became what is known today as Heritage Park and is located on Prather Street in Jamestown, New York. The Greenhurst Nursing Home became what is known today as Heritage Green and is located on Route 430 in Greenhurst, New York.

In 2015, Heritage Ministries can state that the acquisition of both healthcare centers has been a successful move for the organization. By all accounts, the move has allowed the organization to continue to pursue its mission, “To serve others through Christ-centered ministries which promote Hope, Dignity, and Purposeful Living.” This is something to truly celebrate.

The 20th Anniversary ceremony took place at both locations with a simulcast link to connect the gatherings together. “It was important for the celebrations to be connected, because both facilities joined our team on the same day in history. Since technology now allows us to connect between facilities easily, we thought that was an important aspect of the occasion,” said Doug Justham, director of development and marketing.

The ceremony opened at Heritage Park in Jamestown. David Smeltzer, executive director of Heritage Ministries, shared some opening remarks about the acquisition of Greenhurst Nursing Home and Fenton Park. In 1994, the Board of Heritage Ministries had to take a leap of faith in order to see the potential of acquiring both facilities. At the time, the facilities were bankrupt and in need of updates. It was a good thing that the Board had faith, because over the next two decades each facility saw tremendous strides made with regard to the quality of care of the patients and the quality of the facilities. Smeltzer then turned the microphone over to Mayor Samuel Teresi.

Mayor Teresi shared a vivid memory about the changeover of ownership of Heritage Park. He recounted that in 1994 the City was worried about what would happen if Fenton Park were to close. He said they were worried about the loss of business, the



loss of care for the residents, and what would happen to the big empty building. He said that what Heritage Ministries has done for Heritage Park and for the city of Jamestown was great. He wished Heritage an emphatic happy anniversary.

The ceremony continued at Heritage Green with County Executive Vince Horrigan making some remarks. The county executive reflected on his personal connection to Heritage Ministries. Years ago, his father received care at a Heritage Ministries Rehab & Skilled Nursing facility. The staff of Heritage showed his father a great quality of care. He went on to explain that it is the staff at each one of the Heritage Ministries facilities who help to make Chautauqua County a stand out in terms of the level of quality long-term healthcare provided. Horrigan congratulated Heritage Ministries and wished them many more anniversaries to come.

The ceremony returned to Heritage Park and Senator Catharine Young took the podium. "Heritage Ministries, the dedicated staff of nurses, social workers, dieticians, and physical, occupational and speech therapists that make up the teams at Heritage Park and Heritage Green are a tremendous asset to our community. For 20 years now, they have been providing the care and specially tailored services each resident needs emotionally, physically and spiritually. Simply from the smiles on the faces of residents you can tell everyone at Heritage Ministries truly lives up to their mission of promoting 'hope, dignity and purposeful living.' It is was an honor to join in this celebration and I wish everyone at Heritage Park and Heritage Green another 20 years of success and great care," said Senator Catharine Young (R,C,I- Olean).

With a return again to Heritage Green, Assemblyman Goodell stated, "We are blessed to have Heritage Ministries here in Chautauqua County, enhancing our quality of life and well-being. I am honored to help Heritage Green and Heritage Park celebrate 20 years of caring for the citizens of our community."

Again, the ceremony returned to Heritage Park and Jacqueline Chariot, a representative from Congressman Tom Reed's office shared some of the congressman's thoughts, "I am pleased to recognize Heritage Ministries on the 20th anniversary of operating Heritage Green and Heritage Park. I thank them for their service to the greater Jamestown area. Their positive contribution to the community through compassionate and resident-centered care is something to be celebrated. I applaud the work done at these facilities and wish them many more years of meaningful community care."

David Smeltzer, executive director of Heritage Ministries, thanked all of the speakers for sharing the day's events with him and with the facilities. Then he presented each employee who worked for Heritage Park or Heritage Green on January 1, 1995, and remains employed with Heritage Ministries with a commemorative certificate. He thanked each employee for their support in making Heritage Ministries what it is today. At the close of the ceremony, all of the guests enjoyed refreshments and reminisced about the last twenty years.

Heritage Ministries was founded in 1886 and is a non-profit, human-service organization serving the western New York region and employing nearly 800 employees. Independent- and assisted-living residences for seniors are located at Heritage Village



Retirement Campus in Gerry and at The Woodlands (on Southwestern Drive) in West Ellicott. Rehabilitation and skilled-nursing services are provided at Heritage Village in Gerry, Heritage Park in Jamestown, and Heritage Green in Greenhurst.

For more information about Heritage Ministries, please call (716) 763-5608, visit at www.heritage1886.org, or LIKE Heritage at facebook.com/HeritageMinistries.

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Captions for Photos:

heritage20_1: Mayor Samuel Teresi (left) wishes Heritage Ministries and David Smeltzer, executive director, on 20th Anniversary.

heritage20_2: Monitor simulcasting event happening at Heritage Green. Assemblyman Andrew Goodell (left) stands with Jeff Ondrey, Heritage Green administrator.

heritage20_3: Senator Catharine Young interacts with audience in Jamestown and in Greenhurst via simulcast link.

heritage20_4: Audience members in Jamestown watch as County Executive Vince Horrigan recognizes Heritage Ministries while giving remarks in Greenhurst, NY.

heritage20_5: Audience members in Jamestown watch as County Executive Vince Horrigan recognizes Heritage Ministries while giving remarks in Greenhurst, NY.

heritage20_6: Heritage Park employees recognized at 20th Anniversary ceremony. (back row, left) Ruth Bragg, Valerie Woodard, Wendy Samuelson, Annette Reynolds, Robin Duvall, Judy Lewis, Cheryl Lundgren, (front row) Ann Smith, Carole Johnson, Virginia McConnaughay, Jill Tibbetts, and Dineen Mager.

heritage20_7: Senator Catharine Young (left) presents David Smeltzer, executive director of Heritage Ministries, with a proclamation of honor at the 20th Anniversary event in Jamestown, NY.

heritage20_8: Set up of simulcast equipment at Heritage Green.

heritage20_9: Audience members in Greenhurst watch as David Smeltzer speaks about Heritage Ministries while giving his remarks in Jamestown, NY.

heritage20_10: Assemblyman Andrew Goodell interacts with speakers in Jamestown while he is located in Greenhurst, NY.

heritage20_11: County Executive Vince Horrigan reflects on accomplishments of Heritage Park and Heritage Green from the Greenhurst location.



heritage20_12: Heritage Green employees recognized at 20th Anniversary ceremony pictured with honored guests and speakers. (back row, from left) Craig Miller, Jeff Ondrey, Vince Horrigan, Andrew Goodell, Pierre Chagnon, (front row) Paul Constantine, Cheryl Farr, Melissa Seeker, Sharon Williams, Betty Hull, Beth Smith, and Valerie Johnson.