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NEWS RELEASE

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(For immediate release)

HOME CARE SERVICES CAREGIVER OF THE YEAR

LANCASTER, Ohio (November 5, 2007) – Each year, Fairfield Medical Center Home Care Services recognizes an outstanding individual in the community as the Caregiver of the Year. In honor of the excellent and loving care he has provided to his father, Willie Fleischer has been chosen as the 2007 Caregiver of the Year. Willie has cared for his father, William “Bill” Fleischer, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, for the past year. He feeds him, he orders his medications, he administers his medications, he schedules Bill’s appointments, he pays his bills, and he tends to his overall needs. “Sometimes he wakes up as many as ten times in two hours in the middle of the night, and I need to be there for him when he calls” explains Willie. “It is very hard and tiring, but it is rewarding. I just want him to be able to be in the comfort of a home.”

Several Fairfield Medical Center Home Care Services employees who have been involved in Bill’s care, nominated Willie to receive this award. A Home Care Services nurse explained that “Willie has used up most of his own money to care for his father, even selling items of his own to make sure his father is cared for.” A Home Care Services Physical Therapist who nominated Willie said, “He was thrust into a full-time care-giving situation with no prior experience and little previous education on what was expected. He has made many personal sacrifices, including selling his boat to help pay for supplies. Willie has put his father’s needs before his own for months on end and deserves to be recognized.”

Bill, who is now eighty-five, commented on the award given to his son, “He deserves it. I’m glad he’s getting this award.” When asked to describe his father, Willie calls him a fighter. “He is caring and loving even as he is going through these emotionally difficult times.”



Caption for Picture: *William Fleischer stands beside his father every step of the way. He truly exemplifies a true caregiver in every sense.*