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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

“Belle Terrace Achieves Recognition from US Department of Labor/OSHA”

The Nebraska Workforce Development, Department of Labor’s OSHA Consultation Program has announced that Belle Terrace, a skilled nursing facility in Tecumseh, Nebraska, has achieved the prestigious status of inclusion in its SHARP program. SHARP is the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program offered by the U.S. Department of Labor to companies of not more than 250 employees which demonstrate a strong commitment to workplace safety and health, as reflected in a reduced occupational injury/illness experience history and development of an active safety and health management program. The company must have a lost workday injury rate below the average for its industry, be on OSHA’s high hazard industry list, and undergo a complete safety, health, and hazard survey with follow-up visits by the Department of Labor to confirm hazard correction and program implementation.

Belle Terrace is a locally owned and operated 67-bed skilled nursing facility located between its sister facility of Ridgeview Towers Assisted Living and Johnson County Hospital. It has been nationally recognized in recent years for providing consistently high standards of care. The Nebraska Safety Council awarded Belle Terrace its Safety Excellence Award in 1999, and the facility was recognized as one of the top 151 nursing homes out of 16,400 in the nation by CareScout in 2003, as published in Contemporary Long-term Care Magazine. In addition, its administrator, Sharon Colling, was recognized by the American College of Health Care Administrators as national New Administrator of the Year in 2002. Ms. Colling stated, “We’re pleased to have Belle Terrace’s commitment to employee safety recognized by such an established source. It takes the cooperation of all the staff on a daily basis to keep folks safe, whether those folks are residents, staff, or visitors”.

Once a company achieves the prestigious status of inclusion in the SHARP Program, it is awarded a certificate of recognition from the U.S. Department of Labor/OSHA, which removes it from OSHA’s routine inspection list for one year. The Nebraska Workforce Development, Department of Labor also presents a certificate of recognition and a SHARP Program flag from the Commissioner of Labor and the Governor of the State of Nebraska. This presentation ceremony will be held on the grounds of Belle Terrace, 1133 North 3rd Street, Tecumseh, Nebraska on Tuesday, June 14th, 2005 at 11:00 a.m. The public is invited to attend.

