

### CONSUMER REFERENCE REQUEST FORM

*This letter is written by a consumer of program services (that is, an individual who has directly benefited from the nominee's services or initiative), and who is not the nominator.*

Thank you for serving as a consumer reference for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Program. We would appreciate a letter from you, **no longer than 400 words**, that gives us a fuller understanding of the nominee.

- We'd like to know what you consider to be her or his greatest contributions to the community.
- We'd like some insight into how this nominee has handled adversity and what risks she or he has taken to accomplish her or his goals. (This question is optional. You do not have to answer this question if you do not have the information.)
- We hope that you can characterize what makes this person stand out for you and how she or he inspires you.

*Please be as specific as possible. Anecdotes and examples are encouraged and you may also include additional pertinent information, if brief.*

Staw Lilleberg  
Your Name

Judy Berry  
Nominee

4210 195<sup>th</sup> St  
Street

Lakeview Ranch  
Organization

Atwater Mn 56209  
City State Zip

320-974-8517 (same)  
Day Phone Fax (if applicable)

rokane@hotmail.com  
E-mail (if applicable)

Please return the reference letter to the nominator who must send the completed nomination packet to the National Program Office by **January 8, 2010**.

## **Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Community Health Leaders Program**

Re: Judy Berry, CEO Lakeview Ranch, Dassel-Darwin- Minnesota

Judy Berry is a dedicated health care provider for persons and their families who suffer from dementia and related diseases. She has provided two care facilities dedicated to these individuals and their families located in Dassel, Minnesota and Darwin, Minnesota. She has maintained a high ratio of professional staff per patient, at an affordable rate, even as other health care expenses continue their upward spiral.

Judy has personally held the hand of dementia, as her mother's disease progressed. Judy dealt with care facilities demanding she find other placement for her mother, as they could no longer adequately handle the personality and behavioral changes overwhelming her mother. Judy's commitment to her mother led her to develop Lakeview Ranch and the guidelines to deal with the specialized facility and staff needed to care for patients with dementia and related diseases in small rural Minnesota communities.

As health care costs spiral, and local, federal and state aid decline, Judy has only been able to maintain these facilities through tireless fund-raising efforts and taking personal loans to cover shortfalls over payment limitations. She personally has incurred high levels of debt to continue her promise of caring for patient's needs, both physical and emotional. When both of my parents gained admission to Lakeview Ranch, Judy personally promised me that I would never have to search for another facility to care for my parents.

In addition, Judy has become a foremost leader in informing legislative leaders of the value and necessity of this type of specialized care facility for patients and their families devastated by dementia and its related diseases.