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**THREE BERKSHIRE HEALTHCARE FACILITIES EARN NATIONAL AWARD FOR
EXCELLENCE IN LONG-TERM CARE**

**Facilities in Lenox, Leeds, and Peabody, Massachusetts Recognized By The American Health
Care Association And National Center For Assisted Living**

Pittsfield, MA (August 8, 2011)— Three Berkshire Healthcare skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities have been awarded *Silver-Commitment To Quality* National Quality Awards by The American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL). The prestigious awards are presented annually by the AHCA/NCAL to facilities across the United States that serve as models of excellence for providing high-quality long-term care. Of the 5 Massachusetts based 2011 recipients, three of them were Berkshire Healthcare affiliated facilities.

Berkshire Healthcare's three 2011 Silver award recipients are:
Pilgrim Rehab in Peabody, Massachusetts;
Linda Manor in Leeds, Massachusetts;
Kimball Farms Nursing Center in Lenox, Massachusetts.

“We are proud that Pilgrim Rehab, Linda Manor, and Kimball Farms Nursing Center have been recognized as being among the nation’s best senior care facilities,” said Bill Jones, Berkshire Healthcare president. “We are committed to providing the very best care at all of our skilled nursing and rehabilitation facilities, and these awards show that our efforts are succeeding. Congratulations to the administration and staff of Pilgrim Rehab, Linda Manor, and Kimball Farms Nursing Center.”

Implemented by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, the National Quality Award Program is centered on the core values and criteria of the Malcom Baldrige Performance Excellence Program. The program, which assists providers of long-term and post-acute care services in achieving their performance goals, has three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Silver award recipients are recognized for demonstrating a level of quality achievement through good performance outcomes that have evolved from facilities’ ability to embrace core values and concepts of visionary leadership, a focus on the future, and resident-focused excellence. Only facilities that have previously earned Bronze Awards for vision, missions, and focus on customers’ expectations are eligible for Silver Awards.

“Receiving this award is evidence of the staff commitment and successful leadership at these facilities and their ability to apply rigorous standards to operations and service,” says Chick Stepahin, Chair, AHCA/NCAL National Quality Award Board of Overseers. “They have been consistent in their performance and dedication to providing high-quality care.”

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About Berkshire Healthcare

Berkshire Healthcare Systems is a midsize healthcare and senior-services company. The largest nonprofit, post acute care company in Massachusetts, it owns or operates 16 rehabilitation and nursing facilities (14 in Massachusetts, one in Ohio, and one in Pennsylvania); Kimball Farms, a lifecare retirement community in Lenox, Massachusetts; and HospiceCare of The Berkshires. For more information, please visit www.berkshirehealthcare.org.