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**Mather LifeWays and AAHSA Host National Brain Trust Meeting at Splendido**

Phoenix -

Mather LifeWays, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to creating "Ways to Age Well," and the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA), announced today that the two organizations will host a national "Brain Trust" meeting of aging services leaders to explore best practices and research. The meeting will bring together administrators, researchers and funders from more than 30 senior living organizations, foundations, and associations at Splendido, a Mather LifeWays senior living community, in Tucson, Arizona, on Feb. 26-27, 2009.

"The meeting will be a unique opportunity to learn and share the best of what we know and are learning about older adults services through research endeavors," said Mary Leary, President and CEO, Mather LifeWays. "It will be a wonderful opportunity to bring together many of the nation's brightest and most progressive organizations who are making a difference in the lives of older adults."

The meeting was developed by AAHSA in collaboration with Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging. Established by Mather LifeWays in 1999, the Institute on Aging conducts applied research and education for professionals who serve them. With its mission to create the future of aging services, AAHSA is committed to help its 5,700 member organizations be progressive so that they may provide the best services and care possible to older adults.

The meeting will target research areas that are central to many of AAHSA members including wellness of older adults, workforce issues, residents' quality of life, and community-based programming.

Several of the outcomes that are envisioned from the meeting include:

- create a national concerted applied research agenda;
- better orchestrate research findings involving member organizations;
- develop a national member applied research culture that might facilitate applied research in the senior living field;
- collaborate in research projects and grants;
- support member organizations in developing quality research projects, obtaining grants, and shared learning; and,
- provide policy makers reliable information on programs and initiatives that actually work to improve quality services for older adults and have economic benefits to the public.

Representatives of the following organizations will participate in the February 26-27, 2009 meeting at Splendido in Tucson:

**Abramson Center for Jewish Life – Polisher Research Institute**

North Wales, PA

**ACTS Retirement Communities**

Boca Raton, FL

**Benjamin Rose Institute**

Cleveland, OH

**Bethany Center Senior Housing, Inc.**

San Francisco, CA

**Cathedral Square Corporation**

South Burlington VT

**Center for Successful Aging and Fall Prevention Center of Excellence**

California State University, Fullerton

Fullerton, CA

**CJE SeniorLife, Leonard Schanfield Research Institute**

Chicago, IL

**CJE SeniorLife**

Chicago, IL

**ECRI Institute**

Plymouth Meeting, PA

**The Erickson Foundation**

Catonsville, MD

**Foundation for Long Term Care - NYAHS**

Albany, NY

**Hebrew Home for the Aged at Riverdale**

Riverdale, NY

**International Council on Active Aging**

Vancouver, BC

**Lakeview Village**

Lenexa, KS

**Life Services Network of Illinois**

Hinsdale, IL

**Lutheran Homes of South Carolina**

Irmo, SC

**Lutheran Services in America**

Baltimore, MD

**MetLife Mature Market Institute**

Westport, CT

**MorseLife**

Loring Institute for Research and Education

West Palm Beach, FL

**Motion Picture & Television Fund**

Woodland Hills, CA

**The McGregor Foundation**

Cleveland, OH

**The SCAN Foundation**

Long Beach, CA

**New York Association of Homes and**

**Services for the Aging**

Albany, NY

**About AAHSA**

The members of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) help millions of individuals and their families every day through mission-driven, not-for-profit organizations dedicated to providing the services that people need, when they need them, in the place they call home. The 5,700 member organizations, many of which have served their communities for generations, offer the continuum of aging services: adult day services, home health, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care retirement communities and nursing homes. AAHSA's commitment is to create the future of aging services through quality people can trust ([www.ahsa.org](http://www.ahsa.org)).

**ABOUT SPLENDIDO**

Splendido is a joint venture of Mather LifeWays, a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, that creates "Ways to Age Well" for older adults; and The Plaza Companies, a developer headquartered in Peoria, Arizona, that specializes in retirement community development. Opened in 2006, Splendido offers upscale resort-style living for adults 55 years and older through the 10,000-square-foot Salut  Spa & Fitness Center, indoor and outdoor swimming pools, 24-hour concierge service, four dining venues, an 18-hole putting course, and cinema. In 2008, Splendido opened the Sonora health center, which is open to the public-at-large. To learn more about Splendido, call (520) 878.2612 or visit [www.splendidotucson.com](http://www.splendidotucson.com).

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