

Adult Day Services Innovator Award Presented to Heritage Day Health Centers at the 2010 National Adult Day Services Conference Presented by National Adult Day Services Association & NC Adult Day Services Association

This award recognizes innovative practices that strengthen the adult day services business and move adult day services forward in the 21st century through service expansion, technology, marketing, programming, etc.

Heritage Day Health Centers Columbus, OH

has been serving the central Ohio area for over 25 years and currently operates five centers. Heritage has always been at the forefront of innovation throughout their years of operation, including early integration of technology in program management and activities, and opening and operating one of the first intergenerational day care centers in the country. Heritage is especially deserving of an award this year because of their innovative programming that engaged day care participants in their surrounding community by recognizing their talents and abilities.



Typically, adult day participants are viewed as service receivers and not community contributors. Viewing their participants as possessing skills and talents led to Heritage clients meeting real community needs by putting care packages together for soldiers abroad, homeless families, nursing home residents and poor school children. Through civic engagement clubs "Seniors on Purpose," "Friends Helping Friends," "Heritage Huskies for Life," and "Hands of Heritage," clients raised money for the victims in Haiti, for supplies for a local dog shelter and for needy families.



Recognizing the importance of research in program development, Heritage partnered with the Ohio State University College of Social Work to examine how addressing community needs impacted their participants' well-being. Heritage also provided their participants an opportunity to engage in the community through the arts by hosting and exhibiting client artwork in multiple locations throughout central Ohio.



These innovative programs educate others outside of adult day services about what services are provided and offer participants the opportunity to feel a sense of meaning and purpose. Their programming has been featured in local and national media, trainings and academic publications. Heritage's programming takes ageism and disabilityism head on by meeting community needs and enhancing participants' self esteem and physical health.