



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**LIFESTREAM'S ADULT FAMILY CARE PROGRAM OFFERS SUPPORT TO  
PARTICIPANTS AND COMPENSATION TO CAREGIVERS**

*Family and Non-Family Caregivers Could Be Eligible*

NEW BEDFORD, MASS., SEPTEMBER 13, 2010 -- Area residents who are caring for a family member in their home might be eligible for compensation for providing that care.

LifeStream, Inc., a New Bedford-based, human service organization serving individuals and families throughout southeastern Massachusetts, is a Commonwealth-approved provider of Adult Family Care, also called Adult Foster Care. AFC provides a residential setting for individuals unable to live safely alone, but who do not require the level of support found at a traditional group residence or nursing home.

Originally developed for adults who move into the homes of host families, the program provides daily care and the normal supports of every day life as well as the privacy and comfort of a home setting.

In recent years, the program has been expanded in Massachusetts to include host caregivers who are caring for relatives. LifeStream caregivers can be individuals, couples, or larger families.

Eligibility for LifeStream's Adult Family Care Program requires that the individual being cared for is covered by MassHealth Standard or MassHealth

CommonHealth and needs assistance coping with challenges from moderate physical or mental disabilities or advanced age. LifeStream's AFC program participants are 18 years and older.

LifeStream's program administration requires a caregiver review that includes a home visit, several background checks, and monthly site visits by a nurse or case worker. Spouses and those with guardianship status are not eligible as AFC caregivers.

Host services typically cover medication monitoring, assistance with activities of daily living, assistance with managing cash resources, arranging for medical appointments, transportation, meal preparation, and more.

Compensation is awarded to caregivers in the form of a stipend at two levels of care. Level I caregivers receive \$25 per day. At Level II, which brings care to individuals with more significant behavioral and medical needs, the compensation is \$49 per day. Hosts at both levels also receive \$15 per day for providing room and board.

LifeStream will hold an information session on Thursday, October 14, 5–7 p.m. at 13 Welby Road in New Bedford. LifeStream staff members, including a case coordinator and Registered Nurse, will be available for questions and answers. The session will inform families and physicians about LifeStream's AFC program, qualifications for eligibility, and how to apply. To reserve a seat at the session, call 508-985-9680.

For specific information on the AFC program and eligibility requirements, please contact Lori Kydd directly at [lkydd@lifestreaminc.com](mailto:lkydd@lifestreaminc.com) or call 508-985-9680, ext. 210. Applications are also available at any area LifeStream location. A list of locations is available on [www.lifestreaminc.com](http://www.lifestreaminc.com).

Founded in 1976, LifeStream, Inc. is a regional leader in the delivery of programs and services for adults with intellectual and physical disabilities. The organization has an annual operating budget of \$17 million and more than 400 employees. It also runs an Employment & Training Division for area residents and businesses.

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