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HEARTBEET LIFESHARING ACHIEVES CQL QUALITY ASSURANCES ACCREDITATION

Hardwick, Vt. – Hannah Schwartz, executive director of Heartbeet Lifesharing in Hardwick, Vermont, today announced that Heartbeet Lifesharing has been awarded the three-year Quality Assurances Accreditation from CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership. This award confirms that the organization embraces person-centered solutions to improve the quality of life for people receiving supports and services.

Heartbeet Lifesharing provides lives of dignity and opportunity in a community that includes citizens with disabilities in a cost-effective model that is fully integrated with the larger community. Sixteen citizens with intellectual and developmental disabilities, 14 of them Vermonters, make their home at Heartbeet. Heartbeet offers a collaborative and supportive working environment that includes a therapeutic farm and garden devoted to sustainable agriculture, textile studios, and a community kitchen devoted to artisanal food.

Members of Heartbeet take an active part in the life of the larger community through paid employment in local businesses, volunteer service, participation in sports, civic responsibility, and social events. A two-million dollar privately funded Community Center opened its doors in 2016. Dedicated to inclusion, the Community Center provides cultural, educational and artistic opportunities for friendship across abilities for Heartbeet and the Northeast Kingdom.

“Heartbeet’s accreditation by CQL, the first such accreditation in Vermont for a provider of services for citizens with disabilities, affirms our vision and purpose,” said Ms. Schwartz. “It will strengthen our ability and commitment to sustain a community of meaningful friendship, shared responsibility, inclusion and lifelong learning for all who make their home at Heartbeet.”

When Heartbeet partnered with CQL to pursue accreditation, it undertook a rigorous process to review and improve supports and services. The efforts of Heartbeet were focused on empowering the people who receive supports to pursue what really matters in their lives, and achieve their personally-defined outcomes.

Heartbeat has been awarded CQL accreditation as a result of demonstrating proficiency in the following areas:

- **Basic Assurances**[®]
Ensuring fundamental safeguards related to health, safety and human security
- **Personal Outcome Measures**[®]
Supporting and empowering people to achieve their goals and dreams
- **Person-Centered Excellence**
Demonstrating organizational commitment to continued enhancement of systems

“CQL commends Heartbeat Lifesharing for its success in increasing the quality of life for the people it supports. We are pleased to partner with them on this journey of ongoing organizational transformation,” states Mary Kay Rizzolo, president and CEO of CQL.

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CQL | The Council on Quality and Leadership is an international non-profit, virtual organization dedicated to the definition, measurement and improvement of personal quality of life. CQL’s vision is a world of dignity, opportunity and community for all people.

Learn more about CQL by visiting: www.c-q-l.org

Heartbeat is licensed as a Therapeutic Community Residence by the Vermont Department of Aging and Independent Living. Heartbeat is a Camphill community, a member of the Camphill network of more than 120 intentional communities (people choose to live there) worldwide. In Camphill communities, people with and without developmental disabilities live, work and share life together.