ALEDA E. LUTZ VA RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION IN SUSTAINABILITY

Greenhealth Emerald Award honors hospitals driving the health care sector toward a greener, healthier future

Saginaw, Michigan—In recognition for leading the health care industry in sustainability and environmental stewardship, the Aleda E. Lutz VA in Saginaw received the prominent Greenhealth Emerald Award from Practice Greenhealth, the nation’s leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in health care. The award is one of the Environmental Excellence Awards given each year to honor environmental achievements in the health care sector.

The Greenhealth Emerald Award recognizes the health care facilities that are setting the standard in eliminating mercury, reducing and recycling waste, sustainable sourcing, and other areas. Winning hospitals have demonstrated a strong commitment to sustainability and shown leadership in the local community and in the health care sector.

Specific improvements made at the Aleda E. Lutz VAMC was Nutrition and Environmental Service worked to reduce food waste through on-demand ordering and implementing food waste reduction measures. They also added a greenhouse and garden area to produce fruits and vegetables for our patients. The garden area produced approximately 400 pounds of produce in the summer 2017. The estimated cost savings realized was $800-$1,000.

“As health care providers, sustainability is at the core of our healing mission and central to protecting the health of our Veterans, staff, and community,” said Karandeep Sraon, Acting Medical Center Director. “We look forward to continuing this work to drive the future of health care toward sustainability. We thank our VA employees for all they do to help support these efforts in their daily work as well.”
In addition to the facility award, the Aleda E. Lutz VAMC as part of the VISN 10: VA Healthcare System (Cincinnati, OH), was recognized nationwide by receiving the "System for Change Award" by Practice Greenhealth. The System for Change Award recognizes health systems who are working cohesively to set system-wide sustainability goals, track performance data, benchmark, and support intra-organizational learning and implementation within their institutions.

The awards were presented at the Practice Greenhealth Environmental Excellence Awards Gala, set for May 9th in San Diego at the conclusion of the CleanMed Conference & Exhibition.

About Practice Greenhealth
Practice Greenhealth is the nation's leading health care community dedicated to transforming health care worldwide so that it reduces its environmental footprint, becomes a community anchor for sustainability and a leader in the global movement for environmental health and justice. To learn more about Practice Greenhealth visit www.practicegreenhealth.org.

The Aleda E. Lutz VAMC in Saginaw, Michigan operates an 81-bed skilled nursing and rehabilitation Community Living Center, with an additional 8-bed acute medicine and telemetry wing. It provides care to over 36,300 Veterans in a 35-county geographic area, from mid-Michigan to the Mackinac Bridge. Veterans also receive care at one of our nine VA Community Based Outpatient Clinics located throughout Michigan. More information about this VA can be found at www.saginaw.va.gov.

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