

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release . . . .

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## **Overbrook, KS - Brookside Retirement Community receives State Award as “Leader in the Culture Change!”**

May 8, 2008 . . . at the annual Kansas Governor’s Conference on Aging in Topeka, KS, Dr. Bill Thomas, founder of the Eden Alternative, a Cultural Change initiative, with the acknowledgement of Secretary on Aging, Kathy Greenlee presented owners Scott and Susan Averill and their staff with the **2008 PEAK Award** (Promoting Excellent Alternatives in Kansas Nursing Homes).

This award given this year to only ten Nursing Home facilities statewide is the highest State-given recognition for quality-of-life achievements in “Cultural Change.” Those changes include creation of a “Home” environment, resident-centered care, staff empowerment and community involvement, and education for Long-Term Care staff and family.

In 2005, Brookside created the Cottonwood Lane Household, and since then has added two additional households; Lilac Lane and Evergreen Plaza. These “communities” within the facility allow residents to have choices and make their own decisions about activities, food options, and time of day that necessary routines are scheduled. Empowering staff and others that have regular contact with the residents to assist with decisions of the company – everything from bookkeeping to hiring of personnel to assessment of co-workers has made the living environment at Brookside a “HOME” for the elderly and frail not just “a place to be!”

This highly regarded recognition and award is a compliment to not only the owners and staff but also their families, the residents and their families, and to the community of Overbrook!