



PRESS RELEASE

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The People Behind Care at Home: Recognizing “Home Medical Equipment & Services Appreciation” in Minnesota

Celebrating the Professionals who Make Home-Based Care Possible

[Minneapolis, MN] – Behind every person receiving care at home is a network of professionals helping make that possible. From managing respiratory conditions and diabetes to supporting mobility needs, chronic illness, and injuries, home medical equipment (HME) is essential to helping people manage their health and live safely from the comfort of home.

Following last year’s gubernatorial proclamation recognizing the second week of November as Home Medical Equipment & Services Appreciation Week in Minnesota, HME professionals across the state are observing this on November 9-13, 2026.

November is also Homecare Month and National Family Caregivers Month, providing an opportunity to highlight the important role that HME plays in the health care continuum.

“With more than 160 accredited HME supplier locations serving Minnesotans, our Industry is a lifeline for people of all ages and medical conditions,” explains Rose Schafhauser, Executive Director of the Midwest Association for Medical Equipment Services & Supplies (MAMES). “We are proud to see the state of Minnesota lead the way in recognizing the value of HME professionals and the care they deliver every day.”

HME includes products such as oxygen and respiratory equipment, wheelchairs, hospital beds, incontinence products, and other products prescribed by health care providers. HME professionals do more than deliver these products. They provide end users, families, and caregivers the tools, education, and support they need to thrive. Their work helps:

- Reduce hospitalizations and health care costs
- Support families and caregivers
- Empower individuals with complex medical needs to live at home
- Strengthen communities by keeping loved ones together

Home Medical Equipment & Services Appreciation Week honors the accredited suppliers, manufacturers, distributors, and service providers who work tirelessly to support those recovering from illness and injury as well as those living with disabilities and complex medical needs.

“We often think about health care in terms of doctors, nurses, and hospitals, but there’s an entire network of professionals working behind the scenes to make home-based care possible,” explains Ashley Plauché of the American Association for Homecare. “Together, we empower millions of Americans to have greater independence and the ability to receive care where they prefer, providing a cost-effective alternative to more intensive settings when appropriate.”

Minnesota was the first state in the nation to highlight the role of HME through a proclamation, celebrating the people and services that make home-based care possible every day.

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About:

The Midwest Association for Medical Equipment Services – MAMES is a regional association that represents home medical equipment (HME) providers, manufacturers and service representatives across the states of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wisconsin.

American Association for Homecare is a 501(c)6 national nonprofit association leading advocacy efforts on behalf of home medical equipment (HME) providers, manufacturers, and other stakeholders working to protect access to high quality medical products and home-based care for millions of Americans.

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