



Benchmark's First New York Community, Whisper Woods at Smithtown, Welcomes Krajnyak-Baker as Executive Director

SMITHTOWN, NY – (Dec. 19, 2017) – Desiree Krajnyak-Baker has been named executive director at [Whisper Woods at Smithtown](#), Benchmark Senior Living's first New York community. Krajnyak-Baker will oversee the day-to-day operations of the community, provide leadership to associates and ensure residents receive top-quality care. The new community is slated to open summer 2018 in Smithtown, N.Y., and is designed to meet the growing demand for assisted living and memory care services on Long Island.

Krajnyak-Baker brings more than 18 years experience in the senior living industry. Prior to returning to Benchmark, she served at Sunrise Senior Living as an executive director, regional director of operations and vice president. Previously at Benchmark, she served as a vice president and regional director of operations.

"My love for seniors started in the fourth grade when my class adopted a woman who lived in a local senior living community," says Krajnyak-Baker. "She became like family to me, and the experience led to a fulfilling career centered on the importance of being truly present for my residents and their families."

She is a graduate of State University of New York (SUNY) Potsdam with a bachelor's degree in economics and math. A New York native and Long Island resident for more than 12 years, Krajnyak-Baker looks forward to serving her hometown and putting people and purpose at the center of everything she does.

About Benchmark Senior Living

Based in Waltham, Mass., Benchmark Senior Living is a leading provider of senior living services in the Northeast. Founded in 1997 by [Tom Grape](#), Benchmark operates 56 senior living communities offering independent living, assisted living, Alzheimer's care and continuing care in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont. Whisper Woods at Smithtown, opening in 2018, will be the company's first community in the state of New York. Benchmark has been recognized as a top workplace by *The Boston Globe* for 10 consecutive years as well as by the *Boston Business Journal*, *Connecticut Post*, *Hartford Courant* and *Hartford Business Journal*. It has been named one of the healthiest employers by the *Boston Business Journal* and *Providence Business News*. Visit Benchmark at BenchmarkSeniorLiving.com.

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