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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Nanny of the Year™ Announced**

The INA Nanny of the Year™ (NOTY™) Award was presented virtually at the INA Awards Ceremony on Saturday, May 22, 2021, joining with members and professionals who are passionate about in-home child care.

During the event, the previous 2020 INA Nanny of The Year™ recipient, Kim Morgan, Kim is a CACHE Certified Advanced Newborn Care Specialist, Parent Educator, and Infant Sleep Specialist, shared her experiences over the last year while encouraging her professional peers. Kim did not have the type of year most NOTY's experience but she made the most of her time and the INA was proud of her for representing our industry. She went on to introduce our 5 NOTY Nominees before announcing this year's award recipient.

The 2021 INA Nanny of The Year™ recipient is Wendy Sjaardema. Wendy Sjaardema is also a CACHE Certified Newborn Care Specialist, Master NCS®, Sleep Consultant, and a seasoned nanny with over 16 years of professional experience. Over the course of her career, Wendy has provided care to more than 26 families and 35 children as both a professional nanny and newborn care specialist. Wendy now specializes solely in newborn and infant care from birth through 6 months and is passionate about supporting and coaching new parents through the transition of adding an infant to the family.

Laura Schroeder, INA President said, "I'm so excited for our 2021 Nanny of the Year Wendy. Her dedication to the industry as a nanny and newborn care specialist exemplifies the INA goal of excellence in in-home child care. Wendy's nominator had this to say about her: "She is extremely knowledgeable. Her methods are backed by science, research, and experience and she uses all of these tools. The best way I can describe the benefit of her ability to combine all of these elements is in a simple fact that she was always right. Even if our intuition led us down one path Wendy used her observations and knowledge to know what was really happening with our child and how we should handle the situation. It worked every single time."

The NOTY™ award is typically presented at the INA annual conference, which includes three days of information-packed workshops for all those involved in the in-home child care industry; attended by nannies, newborn care specialists, traveling nannies, educators, nanny agency owners and their staff, as well as industry service providers from all over the world. This is the second annual conference that the INA had to cancel due to the COVID Pandemic but has begun planning next year's Conference for the Spring of 2022.

***About the International Nanny Association*** *INA's mission is to serve as the umbrella association for the in-home child care industry by providing information, education, and guidance to the public and to industry professionals. The International Nanny Association (INA), a nonprofit organization, serves as the umbrella organization for the in-home child care industry. INA members include nannies, nanny employers, nanny agencies, educators and industry service providers. Since 1985, INA has worked to professionalize the industry by setting high standards for industry professionals and nanny agencies. INA leverages the expertise of industry professionals from around the globe to help increase awareness about the industry, to develop the professional skills of nannies, and to educate parents about the benefits of hiring a qualified nanny to care for their children.*