

Tyco prosecution defends its methods. **PAGE 6B**

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Home care agency keeps clients independent

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BRADENTON — CJT Home Health Inc. is a new company that offers its homebound patients everything from light housekeeping to administering medication.

Helping people stay independent is a part of the company's goal.

"We serve clients, whether it's helping them with homemaking or with their medical needs," said Chris Caldwell, president of Approved Home Health Inc. "Our services allow people to stay at home and to stay independent."

Caldwell and her husband acquired Approved Home Health Inc. and Approved Homemakers and Companions Inc. on March 9, merging the two companies into one name, CJT Home Health. Its headquarters is at 6016 26th St. W.

The initial companies were founded in 1989.

The insured and bonded company holds two licensed contracts, one with Manatee County and one with the State of Florida.

"We don't want people to think they are locked in their home," Caldwell said. "We can take a client to a museum or even to a Pirates baseball

game."

There are 80 caregivers on staff. Some of the licensed nurses also work at Manatee Memorial Hospital or Blake Medical Center.

Depending on the level of care a person needs, the company has certified nursing assistants, home health aides or licensed LPNs and RNs on staff.

The company has 120 clients. About 65 percent of their clients need various home health services, while 35 percent take advantage of the cleaning or shopping services.

The company does not accept Medicare at this time.

Director of Nursing Kate Sweeney develops caregiver plans for each new client.

"I interview every patient and put together a personalized care plan that works for them," Sweeney said.

The company is averaging 10 to 12 new clients a month, Sweeney said.

Word of mouth from clients and local businesses is the company's best source of advertising, according to Sweeney.

"I love to watch people's faces when they realize they don't have to give up their house," Sweeney said. "It's important that people know that there are other options besides nursing homes."