



Farmington Valley
Visiting Nurse Association

WINTER 2017



In 1908 we made the decision to care for each and every one of our neighbors. One hundred years later, we haven't stopped.

*Visit us at www.farmingtonvalleyvna.org to view our BRAND NEW WEBSITE!
Special thanks to Pixel & Code Studio for their expert design and development work.*

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CHANGES IN LEADERSHIP

New Officers were elected at the agency's January 11, 2017 Annual Meeting. Please join us in welcoming:

Dorothy T. Hammett – President
Vice President, General Counsel & Secretary
Ensign Bickford Industries

John J. O’Connell – Vice President
Assistant Vice President & Senior Counsel
The Hartford

Denise Grant – Treasurer
Vice President, Finance & Control
Ensign-Bickford Industries

Stephanie McGuire – Secretary
Midlevel Practitioner, Neonatal ICU
Connecticut Children’s Medical Center

Our Board of Directors and Staff look forward to working with our new Board Officers, and are most grateful to retiring members Thomas Fuller and former Board President Nicholas Mason for their many years of dedicated service to the agency.

With Gratitude!

- ❖ A generous grant from **John G. Martin Foundation** made it possible to purchase new, highly efficient, securely encrypted laptop computers for our therapists and nursing staff to utilize for documentation and reporting.
- ❖ Our gratitude goes out to **The Brian and Nancy Comer Charitable Fund of the Ayco Charitable Foundation, Evening Star Lodge #101-Unionville,** and the **Reynolds Charitable Foundation Fund** for offering general operating support, and to the **Margaret H. Lindberg Fund** for supporting our Hospice Program and the Granby Food Bank Program.

- ❖ A recent donation from the **First Congregational Church-Canton Center** enabled us to purchase materials for volunteers to sew "Walker Bags," which allow users to carry personal items "hands-free." Please contact us if you have cotton material to donate, or are interested in sewing these simple patterns!



- ❖ The Granby Food Bank Program subsists solely on donations from the community. We are most grateful to **Arrow Concrete** and the **Burkhart Family, Carmon Community Funeral Homes,** the **Gables Homeowners Association,** the **Hunt Glen Community,** the **Student Government at Granby Memorial High School,** and **dozens of individuals, families, and businesses** who continue to support this vital community resource.

Keeping You Safe

What happens when you've "recovered" from an illness or injury and no longer qualify for in-home assistance or outpatient treatment, but still have a need for continuing health assessments?

Our Health Supervision Program is designed to offer preventive care measures and ongoing support for those who find themselves in this predicament. This "safety net" service allows our nurses, therapists, and social worker to detect possible medical issues, reinforce positive health practices, and communicate progress or concerns to physicians as needed.

Of the 92 licensed Home Care agencies in Connecticut, we are the only facility who offers such a unique, collaborative, proactive service. Thanks to funding provided by the towns we serve and the generosity of our donors, Health Supervision visits are available at no cost.

Holiday Trees

Our Hospice volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to decorate holiday trees in the Avon, Bloomfield, Granby, Simsbury, and West Hartford branches of The Simsbury Bank!



Back In Touch Wellness Center



Back In Touch Wellness Center sponsored a Hat and Mitten drive and generously donated the collection of new warm winter accessories to the Granby Food Bank Program.

Salmon Brook Veterinary Hospital



Salmon Brook Veterinary Hospital and Horses & Hounds teamed up to sponsor a Pet Food Drive and recently donated many dozens of bags and cans of pet food.

Notes from Nancy

The winter season has certainly been gracious thus far in terms of weather. With the start of a new year, the VNA is very busy with a number of new projects. The clinical team has been busy with homecare visits utilizing a new assessment tool as directed by The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The staff worked quite hard on training with the new and improved assessment and evaluation tool, aimed at keeping patient care focused on how a patient thinks and processes information. In preparation for this change, our nursing and rehabilitation staff moved to an Integrated Care Model for practice. Our goals are to make you, the patient and family the center of decisions as they impact your health and wellbeing.

Our School nurses in Granby have had a very busy start to their school year, making a seamless transition with the closing of one school. The students continue to be able to participate in a number of activities due to the ability of the nursing staff to always provide safe and consistent clinical coverage for a myriad of medical needs.

Community Programs also continues to be very busy with wellness care at many blood pressure clinics, flu shot clinics and educational talks. They have given close to 2000 vaccinations, once again providing critical care with excellent skill.

We are so fortunate to have such compassionate groups of volunteers. Our Town Associates assisted us in making Thanksgiving cookie platters for our referral sources. Our Hospice volunteers have continued to provide respite and critical supportive care to our Hospice patients and their families, and our Food Bank Volunteers have diligently served Granby residents with items needed for day to day living. We are excited to announce that we are in the process of relocating our Food Bank to the main level of our Granby office, to better serve participants and improve operations.

Ours is an agency of legacy. We have served your communities for almost 109 years. We have done so in large part due to the very generous commitment of you, our supporters. Please know that we will continue to do the good work that you expect us to provide and with every donation, we will make the commitment to you to serve you better. We continue to upgrade our services and systems to make the care that we give the best that can meet your needs. We are your local visiting nurses, physical and occupational therapists, social workers, home health aides and volunteers. If you have a need, please consider reaching out to us. I promise to you that we will do all that we can to make sure that you are cared for in the way that you want.



Nancy A. Scheetz
Executive Director



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The Farmington Valley VNA serves the following communities: Avon, Burlington, Canton, Collinsville, East Hartland, Farmington, Granby, Hartland, North Canton, North Granby, Simsbury, Tariffville, Unionville, Weatogue, West Granby, West Hartland, West Simsbury, and portions of Barkhamsted, Bloomfield, East Granby, New Hartford, and West Hartford.

Welcome New Staff

Catharine Joslyn

*Reception and
Administrative Associate*

Christine Kelley

CNA

Elizabeth Ross

Registered Nurse

Jason Apicella

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Katherine LeSage

Marketing Liaison

Pamela Spielman

Clinical Secretary Associate

Join our team!

We are in need of committed, compassionate, experienced per-diem Registered Nurses and a part-time Licensed Medical Social Worker. Call us, or visit www.farmingtonvalleyvna.org for more details.

Make a Difference

It's the little things we do that can make the biggest difference. If you are looking for a meaningful activity, please consider sharing your skills and talents by volunteering at the Farmington Valley VNA.

Our agency's diverse volunteer opportunities include:

- Providing companionship and support for Hospice patients and their families.
- Assisting with office projects and mailings.
- Stocking shelves at the Granby Food Bank.
- Helping with paperwork at Blood Pressure Screenings and Flu Shot Clinics.

Please call us to discuss volunteering!



The Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association, Inc. is a non-profit, State-licensed and Medicare-certified home health agency and hospice, which has been serving the Farmington Valley community with compassionate care since 1908. A comprehensive program of health care, Hospice services and illness prevention services are available to any individual or family in need, regardless of ability to pay or other hardship. The Agency does not discriminate in its service delivery or operational practices on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender, sexual orientation or any other legally protected status. Please contact us if there are any errors in your name and/or address, or if you do not wish to receive future mailings.