



Farmington Valley
Visiting Nurse Association

WINTER 2018

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

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Annual Fund Drive Appeal

Every September, the Farmington Valley VNA on behalf of its Board of Directors launches its Annual Fund Drive Appeal. The impact from the donations to these campaigns has been truly astounding. Your dollars have:

- Provided for over 200 free healthcare home visits annually
- Covered the increasing gap in insurance reimbursements, allowing our agency to never turn a patient away due to the cost of care
- Funded over 20 Healthcare and Hospice Educational Presentations to the public in the last year
- Fully funded the expansion of our Food Bank program
- Continually add funding to our Hospice program, enabling the addition of new services and comforts, such as our Pet Therapy Program, at the end of life

Please take comfort in knowing that with every donation to our nonprofit organization, we can continue with our mission: we give care regardless of the ability to pay for it.



\$100,000 GOAL

Thanks to the benevolence of our loyal donors, we have currently reached \$81,000 towards our Annual Fund Drive goal of \$100,000! You can help us complete our goal! Your tax-deductible gifts will help us subsidize the care of patients who have insurance limitations or financial hardships.

Job Shadow Day



Last November, the Farmington Valley VNA nurses, physical therapists and the Executive Director spent a half day with students from The Master's School participating in their annual Job Shadow day. Three students hoping to pursue careers in medicine, research and nursing came to the VNA, met with the staff, listened to team meetings and made home visits. All the

students felt that this was a valuable opportunity to have a first-hand look at the many challenges that exist in healthcare today; and for the staff that participated, it was a priceless experience.

The Master's School is to be commended for their part in developing students of such fine character. They asked thought-provoking questions, truly cared about the profession, and were polite and thoughtful throughout the home visits.

It was an amazing day!

A Warm Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome the following individuals to our Board of Directors:

Chris Allen
Ola Ghoneim
Anne Kenny
Gary Mala
Mark Zacchio

Please also join us in welcoming our new staff members:

Nora Baumgart, RN
Anna Epstein, CAN
Ashley Gardner, RN
Brian Hardee, Pastor
Susan Trovato, LCSW

Eagle Scout Projects

The Eagle Scout Service Project provides an opportunity for a Boy Scout to demonstrate leadership while completing a project benefiting his community.

Last Fall, the Farmington Valley VNA benefited from two such projects, at the same time having a wonderful experience with the two Boy Scouts that chose us.

Brendan Sayers of Granby and Charlie Brinegar of Simsbury approached the VNA with their idea for projects for the Food Bank. Thanks to their incredible efforts, we now have a covered gazebo with bench seating and a covered, enclosed shed for food donation drop-offs.

These young men and the teams they worked with put in a tremendous amount of hours, secured all the funding for the projects, and maintained communications with the VNA to assure that our needs would be met. They gave special attention to safety and respecting the privacy of our patrons at the Food Bank.

Please join us in expressing our heartfelt thanks to Brendan and Charlie!



BRENDAN SAYERS UNDER HIS GAZEBO.



CHARLIE BRINEGAR (AT RIGHT) AND HIS FOOD BIN PROJECT. CONTRACTOR DAN FAUTEUX (AT LEFT).

NEWS FROM NANCY

2017 Judith Hriceniak Award

During the Annual Convention of the Connecticut Association for Healthcare at Home (CAHCH) this past fall, an individual was recognized and awarded the Judith Hriceniak Award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership. The Farmington Valley VNA is proud to announce that Karen Bignelli, our Manager of Nursing and Hospice Services, was the recipient of this award. It is a well-deserved recognition for Karen, who has worked with the Farmington Valley VNA for over 26 years.

The Hriceniak Award is CAHCH's highest honor and is presented to an RN who is a visionary role model in the development and implementation of innovative projects that positively effect the ever-changing home care environment. Judith Hriceniak, who died in 2000, started her career in home care and later became a Central Connecticut State University faculty member. She was an active member of CAHCH and functioned as a mentor and role model through her extensive participation in professional organizations at the local, state and national levels.

Karen established new educational processes for the home health aide staff that improved regulatory compliance outcomes by 100 percent in the first year. She has maintained the quality assurance performance improvement process at the VNA and has been an integral part of the team that has enabled the VNA to achieve a HomeCare Elite top honor for seven years in a row.

It was an honor to have presented Karen for the award and a true testament to the VNA that she was unanimously selected. Please join us in celebrating her achievement!



NANCY A. SCHEETZ, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

New Donor Software

The Farmington Valley VNA is indebted to our donors; you are a faithful and generous community. We want to be sure that all our donors are kept up-to-date about the wonderful things that their donations allow us to accomplish, so it's important for us to have accurate information in our database.

In the past year, while updating our outdated software program and moving data from one system to the other, it became clear that some of the information about our donors also needed to be updated. Please help us in our efforts by completing the envelope attached to this newsletter. In this way we can be assured that our communications with you remain both accurate and timely.

Thank you for your help!



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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.



CONGRATULATIONS

Karen Bignelli, our Manager of Nursing and Hospice Services, was the recipient of the 2017 Judith Hriceniak Award. (Read the full story on page 3.)

Congratulations, Karen!

Join our team!

We are in need of a part-time homemaker and per diem Registered Nurses that can work both for home care and hospice. We are also looking for an Executive Administrative Assistant. 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.