



Farmington Valley
Visiting Nurse Association

SPRING 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.

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We've announced our 2017 recipient of the **NIGHTINGALE AWARD FOR NURSING EXCELLENCE**

See *News from Nancy* on page 3.

\$100,000 GOAL

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

NEW FOOD BANK LOCATION

We are delighted to “unveil” changes and enhancements made to the Granby Food Bank! Over the winter months, the Food Bank was moved from the basement level to the handicap-accessible main floor. The waiting area has been expanded for our participants’ comfort, and our volunteers are delighted with the donation staging area, overflow storage, and inventory management system. We are grateful to the volunteers for their invaluable input and assistance, and to Suzy and Charlie Brinegar for their tireless efforts in sorting, managing, and organizing inventory the lower level storage area.

This volunteer-run resource is made possible through YOUR monetary and non-perishable product donations! We appreciate your ongoing support!



Photos courtesy
Embrace Life Photography

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS!

“National Volunteer Week” is the perfect opportunity to publicly express our year-round gratitude to our dedicated teams of volunteers for their many contributions! Their commitment to our programs and projects have a direct impact on our agency’s success.



Hospice Volunteers

At the Granby Food Bank Program, volunteers accept donations, replenish supplies, and assist participants with their weekly pick-up, while Hospice volunteers may interact with clients, provide respite for caregivers, or arrange

and deliver bereavement baskets. Those who prefer an office setting may help with correspondence, mailings, and facilitation of our Annual Fund Drive. Seasonal opportunities exist for volunteers to assist with the registration process at our Flu Shot Clinics, decorate our holiday “Tree of Life” displays, and represent the agency at Senior Fairs and community events.

Please contact us at 860-651-3539 for information about our volunteer opportunities.

A Warm Welcome

It is a pleasure to welcome **Nancy L. Shepard** to our Board of Directors. With over 30 years of experience in the financial services and insurance industry, Nancy is the Managing Principal & Chief Operating Officer at Lindberg & Ripple.

Our Professional Advisory Committee will benefit from the extensive knowledge and nursing expertise of our newest member, **Linda Briggs**, RN, BSN.

We are delighted to welcome three new staff members to our team: **Katie Moriarty**, Registered Nurse; **Kathleen Michniewicz**, Clinic Nurse; and **Laura Rosenblatt**, Medical Social Worker.

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Our agency analyzes many statistics on a daily basis, but few are as impressive as our employee retention rates. We recently had the pleasure of recognizing the staff who have been with us for 5, 10, 15, 25, and 30 years! Their combined 105 years of experience contribute daily to our agency’s success. Congratulations to:

5 YEARS: **Frances Allain**, Full Charge Bookkeeper • **Jodi French**, School Health Services Supervisor • **Melanie Parker**, Physical Therapist • **Laura Perednia**, Medical Social Worker • **Jean Pickens**, Manager of Community Health Programs

10 YEARS: **Annabel Dinse**, Community Health Programs Secretary

15 YEARS: **Susan LaClair**, Receptionist

25 YEARS: **Carlene Dube**, Homemaker

30 YEARS: **Barbara Zenker**, Homemaker



Barbara Zenker

STANDING:

Nancy Scheetz
Jean Pickens
Laura Perednia
Frances Allain
Jodi French

SEATED:

Annabel Dinse
Terri LeDuc
Carlene Dube

NEWS FROM NANCY

The clinical world is one with little spare time. Everyone in health care works with a passion, and practitioners of all disciplines and levels of practice rarely have time to catch their breath amidst busy patient schedules. It is not common to take time out to recognize single individuals for excellence in practice, but in the Nursing profession, the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing are celebrated during National Nurse's Week in early May. There are over 17,000 active registered nurses in the State of Connecticut and only a handful of these are nominated by his/her peers and supervisors to receive this exclusive recognition. Nurses that deserve this award are pioneers in their practice who lead, think creatively, demonstrate innovation, and leave a long legacy of how they took nursing to a new level of expanded care and excellence. This honor speaks to a special level of professional achievement that deserves respect, praise and thanks.

We are proud to announce, praise and celebrate our recipient for 2017, Terri LeDuc. Long before making the decision to attend nursing school, Terri established a strong sense of civic duty through multiple volunteer agencies and organizations. She has worked for the VNA for over 25 years and most of her career has been spent as a School Nurse for the Granby Board of Education, running a clinical practice that has risen above and beyond routine expectations. Individuals rarely seek school nursing as their area of expertise, but Terri successfully handles between 40-60 nursing visits each day. What once was about yearly eyesight testing and simply being present in the event of an emergency has given way to managing childhood conditions such as Adrenal Insufficiency, Diabetes, Seizure Disorders, Cardiac Failure, Major Depression, Eating Disorders, and Attention Deficit Disorders. Terri cares for her school's children with limited medical support, and with the goal of keeping each child safe and able to participate in the normal school activities in spite of chronic or severe medical conditions.

Terri LeDuc was nominated unanimously by her peers because she stands out in a multitude of ways through the innovative things that she does to educate her students, their parents and the school staff on health and wellness initiatives. She does so out of a strong passion for her practice and she always has a "can-do" approach to every day. There is no question that she represents what was originally thought of in the creation of the Nightingale Award. We are proud and honored to have such a level of quality in practice.



Terri LeDuc, RN
2017 nominee for the
**NIGHTINGALE AWARD FOR
NURSING EXCELLENCE**



Farmington Valley Visiting Nurse Association

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8 Old Mill Lane, Simsbury, CT 06070

860.651.3539 | TTY: 1.800.842.9710

www.FarmingtonValleyVNA.org

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.

A SPECIAL VISITOR



Rep. John K. Hampton and Darcy Ingves, RN, visit with a Farmington Valley VNA home care client.

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It was a privilege to have Simsbury's State Representative John K. Hampton express an interest in accompanying our home care staff on patient visits. Rep. Hampton relayed that *"I was delighted to join Farmington Valley VNA staff on a visit to one of their home care clients. It was a wonderful experience and only reinforced what I already knew about this incredible organization: The VNA provides extraordinary health care to our community, adhering to the highest standards and performing their services with professionalism, compassion, and loving care. I am proud to support them at the State Capitol."*



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.