



# VNA<sup>•</sup> Voice

Fall 2007

A publication of the Visiting Nurse Association *of* Hudson Valley and Family

■ VNA *of* Hudson Valley ■ Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam ■ VNA Home Health Services  
■ VNA & Hospice Care Foundation *of* Hudson Valley

## Wound Care Program Expands



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**D**ear friend,  
Summer is usually a time for some much needed rest and relaxation. Although at the VNA we managed to squeeze in a little of that, this summer was exceptionally busy. As you read through our newsletter you will see many of our new initiatives all focused on quality and improving patient care.

**Quality** is the major priority for our family of organizations. It stands at the forefront of decision making at all levels and is the critical factor when designing new programs and meeting community needs. Our staff proves their commitment to quality each and every day and clearly they are responsible for our success.

Our organization has been keeping pace with the “time” as we continue to include cutting edge technology, designed to improve and enhance the quality of care we provide in the community. Our recent acquisition of additional telehealth equipment for VNA of Hudson Valley and Hospice Care patients is exciting and allows us to expand this service to our



palliative care patients. Although our organization is using High Tech technologies, our care remains High Touch! Technology is an enhancement and a supplement, not a substitute for hands-on-care.

The launch of our new website is scheduled for later this year. The site will contain more information and resources and will be more interactive in order to assist visitors with obtaining the information they need.

In addition, this fall we will be

“Our staff proves their commitment to quality each and every day and clearly they are responsible for our success.”

very visible at community health fairs, street fairs and other public events as we continue to reach out into the community, striving to improve the health of our neighbors. Health care is local and the VNA has been the local Westchester provider for more than 109 years!

*Michele A. Quirolo*

**Michele A. Quirolo,**  
President & Chief Executive Officer

## VNA of Hudson Valley Organizations Receive Accreditation from The Joint Commission

**B**y demonstrating compliance with The Joint Commission's national standards for health care quality and safety, the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley, Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam and VNA Home Health Services has earned the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval™.

“We sought accreditation for our organizations because we want to demonstrate our commitment to patients' safety and quality care,” said Michele Quirolo, President and CEO. “We view obtaining Joint Commission accreditation as another step toward

achieving excellence. It shows that we make a significant investment in quality on a day-to-day basis from the top down.”

The Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley and family of organizations were evaluated against a set of national standards by The Joint Commission's survey team experienced in the delivery of home care services. Accreditation was received for all services as provided by the survey for “Comprehensive Accreditation Manual for Home Care.” The Joint Commission conducted an unannounced, on-site evaluation of the

Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley from November 14th through the 17th. The accreditation award recognizes the VNA's dedication to complying with The Joint Commission's state-of-the-art standards on a continuous basis.

The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care, evaluating nearly 15,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States each year.



## Wound Care Services Expand

The Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley (VNAHV) is taking a proactive approach in the field of wound care management. VNAHV Registered Nurses, Carol Jaconetti, Mary Avedisian and Maria Roehmer, have all received Wound Care Certification (WCC) by the National Alliance for Wound Care.



*Maria Roehmer - Telehealth Nurse*

The Wound Care Certification Examination measures the academic and technical competence of eligible professionals in the area of Skin and Wound Care Management above basic licensure. Candidates must take a one week intensive training course in wound management before passing the certification examination with a grade

of 85% or better. This certification is valid for five years.

Wound Care Certification qualifies these VNAHV nurses as experts on wound care and, as such, they are better prepared to treat complex cases and to discuss treatment options with doctors. VNAHV's certified nurses will also be able to support fellow nurses in the field with the diagnosis and treatment of wounds.

"Having certified wound care professionals on our staff is another way in which the VNA of Hudson Valley is demonstrating our commitment to excellence and quality. Wound care is an area in which timely and expert treatment can prevent re-hospitalization and unnecessary setbacks for patients," said Michele A. Quirolo, President & CEO

"Our certification in wound management will allow us to help all of our patients heal quickly with a lower risk for infection and with less trauma," said Carol Jaconetti, RN & Clinical Manager for the VNA of Hudson Valley

To complement our staff's wound care

certification, the VNAHV has recently purchased two Wound Management Telehealth systems. "Our biggest challenge in wound care is accurate communication between our nurses and the physician regarding the condition of a wound and its proper care," stated Rae Szymanski, COO. "These new systems will be used to transmit images to our wound care nurses and the patient's physician. As a result, our nurses will be able to immediately and accurately assess the wound and provide treatment."

In February 2003, the VNAHV became the first home health care agency in Westchester to offer Telehealth to our patients and today we are still leading the way in incorporating cutting-edge technology into our services as a way to enhance the care we provide to our patients.

With the introduction of the Wound Management Telehealth systems, the VNAHV will be able to achieve a reduction in the frequency of in-home visits, a reduction in wound healing time, prevention of infections and hospitalizations and an increase in patient's self-reliance in wound care.

## VNA of Hudson Valley Appoints Melanie Duerr New Vice President for Certified Services

The Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley recently appointed Melanie Duerr, Vice President for Certified Services. In this role, Duerr will oversee the operations for the certified home health care organization that has been serving Westchester county for over 109 years.

Duerr is a Registered Nurse and Nurse Practitioner with vast experience in the home health care industry. She comes to the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley from Optimal Home Health in Bakersfield, CA where she was the Administrator of the certified agency. She is also the founder and managing partner of Home Partners, LLC, a clinical consulting firm.

Duerr received her Masters of Science in the Nurse Practitioner program from the University of Rochester and Bachelor of Science from LeMoyne College. She is a graduate of St. Joseph's Center School of Nursing in Syracuse. In addition, Duerr received her Home Health Care Administrator certificate in 2007 and has acted as a consultant for home health and hospice programs across the country including a remote provider on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska.

Duerr resides in Beacon with her husband Dan and has three children.

"I am pleased to have the opportunity to be part of the VNA of Hudson Valley. It is a warm team of

individuals all focused on the best care for our patients and their families," said Duerr.

Michele Quirolo, President and CEO of the VNA, said, "We are so happy to welcome



Melanie to our family of organizations. I know that her years of experience will benefit our organization and will help to keep the VNA of Hudson Valley at the forefront of home health care."



## Volunteer Recruitment and Training

**H**ospice Care in Westchester & Putnam is fully committed to giving exceptional care to the patients on our program and their families. In order to continue providing this wonderful service, we are continuously looking for volunteers to donate their time to help those we serve.

Volunteer positions are currently available in the following areas:

- ♦ **Direct Patient & Family Support:** Provide socialization and emotional support, assistance with chores and errands, as well as family respite.
- ♦ **Bereavement Care:** Participate in bereavement follow-up activities and also work with grieving children and their families, by helping to facilitate children's grief support groups.
- ♦ **Special Community Events:** Help at various public community awareness and fund-raising events.
- ♦ **Spiritual Comfort:** Provide spiritual support to patients and their families, working alongside our hospice chaplain.
- ♦ **Office Support:** Assist in general clerical duties.

Volunteers are treasured members of our team. They are involved with patients and families, helping us to carry out special programs. Volunteer shifts can be scheduled according to each individual's availability. Training will be provided for all prospective volunteers.

Becoming a Hospice volunteer offers a unique opportunity for personal satisfaction and growth as well as the

chance to make a difference in someone's life. Don't miss this wonderful opportunity to give back to your community!

If you are interested in becoming a Hospice Care volunteer, please contact Reverend Mary Ellen Summerville at (914) 666-4228, ext. 326.



### Volunteer Training Schedule

Saturday, September 29, 2007  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

and

Saturday, October 13, 2007  
9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

540 White Plains Road  
Suite 300  
Tarrytown, NY

*\*Pre-registration is required!*

Call (914) 666-4228, ext. 326

## Wedding Wishes Come True for Hospice Family

**G**iving away his daughter at her wedding was a tradition that was incredibly important to Joel Scher. However, after being diagnosed with a serious illness and starting Hospice treatment, Joel became increasingly concerned that he would not be well enough to attend his daughter's June wedding.

After voicing these concerns to Hospice Care social worker Susan Eldridge, several options were discussed. In the end, both families decided it would be wonderful to hold a wedding ceremony at Joel's bedside a few weeks before the formal ceremony.

The bride's and groom's parents were present at the ceremony which was

performed by Hospice Chaplain and Volunteer Coordinator Mary Ellen Summerville. Mary Ellen has married many couples before, but never under such extraordinary circumstances.

"It was a very emotional and sacred moment for all who were involved. Even the exchanging of vows became more serious, meaningful and understandable in that setting. This has been the most wonderful moment during my ten months here at Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam," said Mary Ellen Summerville. "This beautiful wedding ceremony illustrates the trusting relationships that we, Hospice staff, share with our patients and families."



## Step Right Up! Caring Circle Welcomes Big Apple Circus

The Caring Circle hosted its 3rd Annual Day Camp on Saturday August 4, 2007. This year, 56 children participated in the one day camp which took place at the Pound Ridge home of former Hospice Chairperson, DeDe Burke.

The sun shined brightly as the children and volunteers participated in the circus themed day camp. Laughter filled the air as campers learned how to juggle and spin plates like true circus performers. Other camp activities included colorful face painting, swimming and a visit from the Critter Lady. Concluding the day and bringing the circus to life was a performance by members of the Big Apple Circus.

The Caring Circle is a program developed by Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam to help children, teenagers and their families or guardians learn healthy coping behaviors to aid in dealing with the thoughts and feelings associated with grieving the loss of a loved one.

The Caring Circle helps over 200 children each year cope with the loss of a loved one. Age-specific peer groups participate in discussions and activities in a safe environment that fosters healthy grieving and promotes healing for both children and adults. The program teaches participants grief management skills to help them cope with the death of a loved one in constructive ways. The Caring Circle also provides a forum for children to express their feelings, both verbally and non-verbally in a supportive environment. The groups are ongoing and confidential and participants are invited to attend the support groups for as long as the experience is beneficial. The groups are offered in Yorktown Heights on alternate Wednesdays and in Yonkers on alternate Thursdays.

For more information on the Caring Circle, please contact Marianne Walsh at (914) 666-4228, ext. 336.



# BIG APPLE CIRCUS



*Photo captions: (Top Left) Dikki Ellis performs some circus magic; (Top Right) Kayla Salerno, 9 years old, Alexa Byrnes, 7 years old, and Emily Salerno, 7 years old enjoy their ice cream treats; (Middle Right) Gina teaches Babakar Sarr, 3 years old how to spin plates; (Bottom Left) Brothers Harry and Charlie Rose, 9 and 7 years old, are introduced to an Australian Blue-Tongued Skink; (Bottom Right) Dimitra Fellman, 7 years old, shows off her freshly painted face.*

## VNA Employee Reaches Out to Those in Need in Mississippi

VNAHV Registered Nurse Dorita Taylor recently returned home from a weeklong trip to the Mississippi Delta where she participated in a mission to provide medical assistance and education on the prevention and treatment of diabetes to one of the poorest and neediest areas in the United States. The mission was organized by Calvary Baptist Church in New York City.

The mission was staffed by 32 volunteers who formed teams to address three crucial areas of need: education, construction and medical services. These dedicated individuals worked in some of the Mississippi Delta's poorest counties, Mayersville, Arcola and Lambert. As a member of the Medical Team, Dorita and her fellow missionaries provided diabetic care and instruction with the help of representatives from the American Diabetes Association.

The VNA of Hudson Valley was fully supportive of Dorita and her decision to reach out to those in need. VNAHV vendor Henry Schein also recognized the importance of this mission by donating supplies including: glucometers, genie lancets, alcohol pads, gloves, band-aids, glucometer strips, sharps containers, hand

sanitizers, and pamphlets on diabetic management and diets.

Dorita has always been interested in doing charity missionary work, but hadn't considered doing anything until after she retired. That changed after she read "The Purpose Driven Life." One chapter in particular, entitled "What on Earth Am I Here For?", influenced her decision to immediately get involved in missionary work.

"People in the south are suffering. There is a lack of education,

healthcare, housing and more. Delta has the highest rates of diabetes, illiteracy and unemployment. I just wanted the opportunity to empower people to take charge of their health. I've never worked so hard emotionally and spiritually," said Dorita. "Thanks to the support of the VNA, I was able to use my expertise to make a difference for so many. This trip was a culmination of what we do here in Westchester County everyday - provide healthcare and support to all those who need us."



(L-R) VNAHV Registered Nurse Dorita Taylor with Home Care & Hospice Physician Dr. Crockett

## Technology Shifts Focus from Paper Care to Patient Care

Technology is pervasive in our lives and healthcare is no exception. The VNA of Hudson Valley realized early on the importance of technology in caring for those we serve. In a concerted effort to streamline operations while increasing efficiency and patient care services, we recently purchased laptops to equip all of our VNA and Hospice Care clinical field staff including nurses and therapists.

Having a laptop at a patient's home offers immediate access to medical record information which provides a greater level of accuracy and medical care quality. Instant access to all medical information empowers our

staff to provide the best, most consistent care possible utilizing critical, up-to-date information.

Many of the VNA Nurses have been using laptops for some time with great results. The organization has seen a reduction in paperwork, errors and processing time resulting in more efficient use of resources. The results are that clinical staff can devote more time to patient care, our number one focus.

The recent equipment acquisition includes outfitting our Hospice field staff to have the same access and to ensure a smoother transition for those

patients that may use the services of two or more of our healthcare organizations.

Comprehensive laptop training is ongoing for all clinical staff. "The technology is a tremendous help in our push to maximize resources while enhancing patient care," says Michele Quirolo, CEO. "In order to make this process as smooth and seamless as possible, the training of our professionals is vital. It is the back office efforts that make our frontline point of care the highest quality it can be."



## Home Health Services to Provide Certification Training for Home Health Aides

As the tremendous shortage of Home Health Aides increases, training for these para-professionals is becoming ever more important to ensure the quality of care provided to individuals in the community. With years of expertise in the field, VNA Home Health Services has applied to the New York State Department of Health to provide this specialized training that leads to certification, which is required for employment in New York State. Upon final approval, the first training class is expected to be held in the fall of this year.



Individuals who can attend this training program include those with no prior experience, Personal Care Aides who wish to go a step further and Certified Nurse Aides who may want to work in the home as opposed to a skilled facility. Student nurses who wish to work while going to school can also receive competency evaluation and skills review which will certify them as Home Health Aides. The first hand patient care experience

is invaluable to students and it also offers them an opportunity that may lead to a position with our RN program after graduation. Training is also offered to Certified Home Health Aides from other states who need a NYS certification.

As a training site, Home Health Services will receive approval of their site which includes an appropriate floor plan for the training room, required equipment such as a hospital bed, a commode and other equipment, review of the instructors' credentials and compliance with record keeping.

The training classes are free of charge and run for three weeks at a time. Instruction is provided by a Registered Nurse and a Physical Therapist. Students' skills will also be reviewed by an RN on at least ten occasions at a patient's home.

Applicants for the Home Health Aide classes must pass a basic reading and math test, have medical documentation of their good health and be screened thoroughly through the use of background checks, drug testing, finger printing and references. Interested candidates can call Home Health Services at (914) 666-7079.

### Home Health Services Satellite Recruitment Center in Yonkers

Individuals interested in employment or training for:

- Home Health Aides
- Companions
- Homemakers
- Anyone interested in getting a Home Health Aide Certification

can now visit our new satellite office located at:

6 Xavier Drive - Room 311A  
in the Medical Building  
at Cross County Shopping Center  
in Yonkers, New York.

Recruitment staff will be located at this office every Wednesday from 10:00 am until 2:00 pm.

To make an appointment, please call (914) 666-7079.

Walk-ins are also welcome!

## Geriatric Care Consultation Services Now Offered

VNA Home Health Services now offers Geriatric Care Consultation Services to families and individuals involved in the support of elderly people who need assistance to continue to live in their own homes. This new program guides families through the process of determining where to begin, what questions to ask and how to arrange for services.

A professional team of nurses, social workers and geriatric care managers will help families identify needs and develop a plan for personalized services which will maximize the independence, safety and comfort of their loved one at home.

The service will help determine if a client is eligible for services under Medicare or Medicaid and if Long Term Care insurance or private pay resources can be utilized for the most cost-effective plan. It will also address issues such as the management of non-medical needs, home maintenance and socialization.

A family member, friend or other responsible party may request a consultation. The initial evaluation is provided, at no charge, over the phone or at the VNA HHS office. Staff is professionally trained and experienced in assessing the medical, social and physical care needs of the client.

Through the VNA HHS Care Plus Program, families and caregivers can choose from a wide variety of in-home support such as companionship services, light housekeeping, meal planning, doctors visit accompaniment, medication reminders or assistance with pet care. Ultimately, the Geriatric Care Consultation Services aims to make the process of care-giving as easy and simple as possible for the caregiver, the family and the patient.

For more information regarding the Geriatric Care Consultation Services or other services provided by VNA Home Health Services, please call (914) 666-7079.

### New Bereavement Support Groups Offered

Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam is pleased to announce several new bereavement support groups. In addition to the four groups that meet monthly throughout Westchester and Putnam counties, Hospice Care is now offering monthly group meetings in Cold Spring and Tarrytown.

The group in Cold Spring began as a special three-session workshop in May 2007 for community members who were grieving multiple losses. These workshops were intended to bring together members of the same neighborhood who were grieving. Susan Walton, Adult Bereavement Coordinator, received such positive

feedback that the workshop was turned into a regularly occurring support group. The Cold Spring group now meets once a month at St. Mary's in the Highlands Church.

Hospice Care also offers a recent loss support group in our Tarrytown office. This group was initially started for those already in the Hospice family who had recently lost a loved one. This group started in January on a trial basis and, after much interest, the group has now been opened to the general public. The Tarrytown group meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the corporate office located at 540 White Plains Road.

For enrollment or more information about other groups and seasonal workshops, please call (914) 666-4228, ext. 492.



#### Maggie Rose Perinatal Bereavement Support Group

Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam has started a new bereavement support group, the Maggie Rose Perinatal Bereavement Program. This support group aims to provide an environment of understanding and comfort for parents and families who have experienced or will experience the loss of a baby during pregnancy, at birth or shortly after birth.

This new program will work in conjunction with hospitals, healthcare organizations, physicians, perinatologists and other healthcare professionals to provide support services, education and community outreach to those affected by the loss of a child. Other services provided by the Maggie Rose Perinatal Bereavement Program include art therapy and counseling. All services are provided free of charge.

Support group sessions will be held on the second Tuesday of each month from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam, 540 White Plains Road, Ste. 300, Tarrytown, NY.

Pre-registration is required. For more information, contact Marianne Walsh at (914) 666-4228, ext. 336.

#### *Monthly Support Groups Schedule*

Mt. Kisco - Northern Westchester Hospital: General Loss  
Meets first Wednesday of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Carmel - Putnam Hospital Center: General Loss  
Meets fourth Monday of the month from 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Cold Spring - St. Mary's in the Highlands: General Loss  
Meets fourth Friday of the month from 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Cortlandt/Peekskill - Hudson Valley Hospital Center: General Loss  
Meets second Tuesday of the month from 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

New Rochelle - Sound Shore Medical Center: General Loss  
Meets third Thursday of the month from 3:00 PM - 4:30 PM

Tarrytown - 540 White Plains Road: General Loss  
Meets second Tuesday of the month from 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Brewster - Trinity Lutheran Church: Any Loss/Loss of Spouse  
Meets first Friday of the month from 10:30 AM - 12:00 PM

Tarrytown - 540 White Plains Road: Perinatal Support Group  
Meets second Tuesday of the month from 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Yonkers - Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church: Caring Circle  
Meets on alternate Thursdays from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM

Yorktown - Yorktown Presbyterian Church: Caring Circle  
Meets on alternate Tuesdays from 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM



## Tree of Life - A Season of Remembrance

Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam is pleased to announce the start of its 19th Annual Tree of Life celebration. The Tree of Life captures the solemn spirit of the holiday season and provides people with a wonderful opportunity to remember loved ones in a special way. Individuals may purchase ornamental doves to be inscribed with the name of a loved one, which are then displayed on evergreen trees in Tree of Life event locations for the duration of the holiday season.

For each donation of \$25 or more, a dove will be displayed on the Tree of Life as a tribute to your loved one. All proceeds from the event benefit Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam which offers comprehensive programs for patients with advanced or life threatening illnesses in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Bereavement support groups are also offered, at no charge to children and adults in the community.

If you are unable to attend the Tree of Life event, but would still like to make a donation in memory or in honor of a loved one, you may purchase a dove by mail using the form below or by calling (914) 666-4228, ext. 210.

### Tree of Life Ceremonies

*Please join us for holiday music and joyful remembrances.*

#### Jefferson Valley Mall

Friday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM (Center Court)

#### Holiday Inn - Mount Kisco

Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM (Hotel Lobby)  
Refreshments will be served

#### Crowne Plaza Hotel - White Plains

Monday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM (Hotel Restaurant)  
Refreshments will be served

### Volunteers Needed!

We are currently seeking volunteers to staff our Tree of Life donation booth at the Jefferson Valley Mall.

Volunteer shifts are available daily from November 16<sup>th</sup> until December 24<sup>th</sup>



2pm - 4pm  
4pm - 6pm  
6pm - 8pm



Volunteers will collect donations, help donors fill out donation forms, inscribe doves and hang them on the tree.

If you would like to volunteer, please call (914) 666-4228, ext. 210.

*I'd like to make a donation to the Tree of Life to purchase a dove in memory or in honor of a loved one!  
Please hang my dove(s) at the:*

☐ Jefferson Valley Mall   ☐ Holiday Inn - Mount Kisco   ☐ Crowne Plaza Hotel - White Plains  
☐ \$25   ☐ \$50   ☐ \$100\*   ☐ \$200   ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*A white dove will be hung for donations of \$25 or greater. \*A silver dove for donations of \$100 or greater.*

Make your check payable to **Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I'd like to make this contribution by credit card:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ exp. \_\_\_\_

☐ Visa   ☐ MasterCard   ☐ AmEx

This gift is: *In memory/In honor of:*

Please notify \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner

Over 240 guests gathered on May 17<sup>th</sup> for the Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley's 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Dinner at the Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle. Over the years, the Annual Dinner has grown in both size and presence within the community. This year's dinner raised over \$109,000 for the VNA of Hudson Valley family.

Guests at the event took in breathtaking sunsets and beautiful panoramic views of the Long Island Sound while enjoying refreshments, a silent auction, dancing and fine cuisine. Returning to host the evening's event was Janine Rose, News Director & Anchor for News 12 Westchester.

Every year, the VNA of Hudson Valley recognizes individuals and organizations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to compassionate care giving within the community through four unique awards.

The Corporate Community Service Award recognizes philanthropy in the community and support of our organization by a distinguished corporate leader or entity. This year's Corporate Community Service Award recipient was Michael J. Ryan, owner of Jake's Steakhouse and Highland Food Sales, Inc. in the Bronx.

The VNAHV Award of Merit was presented to John F. Heimerdinger. This award is given to an outstanding community leader for their commitment to both public service and

our agency. John F. Heimerdinger serves as a Board Member for the VNA of Hudson Valley and the VNA & Hospice Care Foundation.

Westchester County Commissioner of Health, Joshua Lipsman, M.D., J.D., M.P.H. received the Ellen Wood Health Care Award. The award, named in honor of the VNA of Hudson Valley's first nurse, is presented to an individual who has shown leadership and commitment to the health care industry.

Completing the awards ceremony was the presentation of the Dana Reeve Caregiver's Courage Award. This award is given to an individual who embodies the true spirit of care giving by providing exceptional support to a loved one at home. This year's recipient was Kathleen "Kiki" Doherty Burpee. Kathleen was recognized for the exceptional care and dedication she has shown to her husband Tom throughout his illness of Multiple Sclerosis.



(L-R) President & CEO Michele A. Quirolo with John F. Heimerdinger, VNAHV Award of Merit recipient.

Hudson Valley Renegades  
Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival  
Jacob Burns Film Center  
JetBlue Airways  
Joe Deutsch Photography  
Kelloggs & Lawrence Hardware Store  
Kripalu Center for Yoga & Health  
La Crémallere  
La Mer  
Laurance Baschkin  
MacMenamin's Grill & ChefWorks  
Meadowlands Racetrack  
Michael J. Ryan & Jake's Steakhouse  
Mirror Lake Inn Resort & Spa  
Mohegan Sun  
Mohonk Mountain House  
New Roc City  
New York City Opera  
New York Football Giants  
New York Jets  
Old Lyme Inn  
Preferred Business Forms  
Renaissance Westchester Hotel  
Rini's Restaurant  
The Salon  
Sam Ash Music Stores  
Saratoga Performing Arts Center  
Scarsdale Art & Frame Shop  
Shakespeare & Company  
Smokers Harbor  
The SpaPros Mobile Day Spa  
The Sterling Inn  
Thunder Ridge Ski Area  
Underhills Crossing Restaurant  
Westchester Marriott  
Westchester Office World  
Zones

### *Special Thanks to Our Silent Auction Donors:*

Abigail Kirsch  
Adela Elow  
B.D.O. Seidman  
Basket Boutique  
The Batcheller Mansion Inn  
Bedford Yoga  
Belleayre Mountain  
Benmarl Winery  
Blue Restaurant  
Crowne Plaza White Plains  
Captured Moments by Carmen  
Caramoor  
Casafina  
Club Fit  
Country Life Bed and Breakfast  
Crabtree's Kittle House  
Dermacare  
Doral Arrowwood  
Eileen Fisher  
Foxwoods Resort and Casino  
Harry's of Hartsdale Steakhouse  
& Oyster Bar  
The Helmsley Park Lane Hotel  
Hudson Highland Cruises  
The Hudson River Museum



(L-R) Tom Burpee; Kathleen Doherty Burpee, Dana Reeve Caregiver's Courage Award Honoree; Andrew Burpee and Erin Burpee.

## VNAHV Community Outreach Calendar

VNAHV professionals are working in the community to promote better health, education and awareness. It is part of our mission to work towards the well-being of our entire community.

As regular participants in community health fairs, educational seminars and other public events, VNAHV staff members provide free blood pressure and glucose screenings. Educational initiatives include sign and symptom identification, better health practices and information on treatment opportunities. Our experts also provide links to healthcare and social resources for individuals from infants to seniors.

All VNAHV community outreach efforts are provided at no charge to participants, thanks to the generosity of our donors. Please make sure to stop by the VNAHV table at any of these health fairs; our staff will be happy to help you with any questions.

For more information about VNAHV's Community Outreach efforts, please call (914) 666-7616.

### Senator Vincent Leibell's "To Your Health" Senior Health Fairs

Mount Kisco  
Boys & Girls Club  
351 Main Street

Friday, September 28, 2007  
9 AM - 12 Noon

Yorktown  
Yorktown Community  
& Cultural Center  
1974 Commerce Street

Friday, October 5, 2007  
9 AM - 12 Noon

Cortlandt  
Muriel Murabito  
Community Center  
29 Westbrook Drive

Friday, October 26, 2007  
9 AM - 12 Noon

### Sleepy Hollow Health Fair

Sleepy Hollow  
Kendal-on-Hudson  
1010 Kendal Way

Tuesday, October 16, 2007  
10 AM - 2 PM



### The Caring Tree— Recognize, Honor or Memorialize a Special Person

Help us fulfill our mission by purchasing a commemorative leaf or base stone on our Caring Tree. Your message will be permanently inscribed on the beautiful display gracing our lobby for all to see.

*Contributions to the Caring Tree support the programs funded by the VNA & Hospice Care Foundation of Hudson Valley. Your support benefits the largest family of not-for-profit organizations providing home health care services in the area, directly reaching those in need in our community. Please help us perpetuate the tradition of excellence in home health care services we pride ourselves on.*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name and/or message to inscribe on leaf:

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Yes, I would like to make a gift to the Caring Tree and show my support by purchasing:  
☐ A Leaf for \$250    ☐ A Base Stone for \$1000
- ☐ I have enclosed a check made payable to:  
 VNA & Hospice Care Foundation of Hudson Valley
- ☐ I would like to make this gift using my credit card  
☐ American Express   ☐ Mastercard   ☐ Visa  
 Acct # \_\_\_\_\_  
 Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I have enclosed my employer's matching gift form.





VNA of Hudson Valley  
is the area's largest  
provider of home  
healthcare services  
headquartered in  
Westchester County.

For further information regarding  
programs and services, please call  
914.666.7616 or visit our website  
at [www.vnahv.org](http://www.vnahv.org)

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## HomeCare Elite

The Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley  
has been named to the 2006 Home Care Elite,  
which places us among the top 25% of  
home health providers in the country.

This designation, given by  
Outcome Concept Systems  
identifies Medicare-certified agencies whose  
performance measures in quality, improvement  
and financial performance rank highest among  
providers nationwide.

The OCS is a healthcare information company  
with the nation's largest and most comprehensive  
set of measures spanning clinical outcomes,  
financial performance, resource utilization, patient  
satisfaction and operational indicators.

We congratulate our staff on their dedication and  
commitment to excellence!



Visiting Nurse Association of Hudson Valley  
Hospice Care in Westchester & Putnam  
VNA Home Health Services  
VNA & Hospice Care Foundation of Hudson Valley

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