Your support brings life-changing health care into people’s homes and the community

Welcome to VNA Care’s 2019 Donor Report!

This special issue of Caring Matters is dedicated to giving thanks to our many supporters. Because of you, local residents from just a few months old to over 100 years old received vital health care services at home and in the community last year.

It’s truly an honor to be part of a tradition of compassionate care and community service that began in 1886, when we became the first organized visiting nurse association in the United States. The generosity of people like you has made a difference every single day since then.

Our staff was busy behind the scenes last year laying the foundation for a new decade of home health and hospice care. We entered the optimization phase of a multi-year process to adopt a new electronic medical record system. The system will help streamline documentation for our clinicians and provide the data needed to assess and improve the impact of our care.

We are also focused on acclimating to Medicare’s new Patient-Driven Groupings Model, which went into effect on January 1 and represents the most significant regulatory and reimbursement change to the home health care landscape in two decades.

VNA Care also achieved reaccreditation from The Joint Commission, the nation’s preeminent health care accreditation and standards-setting organization. VNA Care has maintained accreditation from The Joint Commission for many years as part of our dedication to quality patient care.

Everything we do is focused on our mission “to provide the right care with kindness and compassion every day for every person we serve.” Your donations make it possible for our clinicians to provide the type of care that means the world to our home health and hospice patients:

“All of you (VNA Care’s home health team) provided a guiding light along my recovery path, and you reinforced my courage and strength. I will always have a place in my heart for each of you.”

“Thank you all for the wonderful care you gave to my Mom and all of us. I wish everyone could spend their last days in your hands.”

Today, your support is more vital than ever as we respond to the needs of the growing number of people living with multiple chronic diseases, older adults who want to remain healthy and independent, and terminally ill individuals who want to die peacefully at home.

Thank you for being part of this very important work.

Because of the generosity of our donors, VNA Care provided home health, palliative, and hospice care to nearly 30,000 individuals in 2019. Support was provided to thousands more family members. Our free Keep Well Clinics and special Wellness Programs promoted the good health and independence of older adults in Eastern and Central Massachusetts.
Honor Roll Donors – Thank you for making our mission and work possible through your generosity!

VNA Care’s Honor Roll recognizes the individuals, businesses, community organizations, and foundations that made a donation of $100 or more between January 1, 2019, and December 31, 2019.

Our generous donors designated these gifts in support of a wide range of patient care and family support services including home health, palliative, and hospice care; wellness and preventive health programs; Elizabeth Evarts de Rham Hospice Home; Rose Monahan Hospice Home; and Stanley R. Tippett Hospice Home.

We are thankful to all of you for your kindness and generosity. Every gift makes a difference in the health and well-being of patients and families in our communities.

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Lindsay and Stephen Tosi, MD
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Peter Coakley, DMD
Tim and Christina Cohen
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Commonwealth Care Alliance
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Ariel and Joanne Cudkowicz
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Cure Medical
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Sharon and Michael Gillespie
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S.B. Goddard & Son Co.
Goldman Sachs
Judy Gregg
Deborah Guyot-Freeman and Mark Freeman, PhD
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Robert and Ava Hastert
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Patti L. Hoffman
Lisa M. Holm
Linda Hope-Springer and Emery Springer
Ann S. Hurd
Jackson Lewis
Robert J. Jamieson, Sr.
C. Bruce and Helen Johnstone
Sheila R. Kennedy
Kirivan-Lane, Inc.

Hospice & Palliative Care in 2019

Patients Served: 2,043
Unique Diagnoses: 454
Age Range: 19 to 105
Top Five Diagnoses:
1. Cancer
2. Cardiovascular
3. Dementias
4. Respiratory Diseases
5. Other End-Stage Diseases

Total Visits: 73,167
Average Days of Care: 54.8
Volunteers: 140
Volunteer Hours: 3,978

Hospice Residences
Elizabeth Evarts de Rham Hospice Home, Cambridge;
Rose Monahan Hospice Home, Worcester; and
Stanley R. Tippett Hospice Home, Needham

Patients Served: 521
Age Range: 37 to 100
Serving Patients in Need in 2019

$2,812,184

VNA Care provides free care and partial charity care for patients in need in their homes and our three hospice residences. In addition, we provide free health clinics and education programs in the community.
From butter and eggs stores to pioneers in home health care: Ames Nursing Foundation and the power of planned gifts

Seth and Emma Ames believed in giving back to the community, and their generosity is still making an impact more than 70 years after their deaths. The couple owned specialty (butter and eggs) stores throughout New England until Seth retired in 1929. Through their will, Seth and Emma created the Ames Nursing Foundation, which gave much needed charitable support to launch and sustain the first visiting nurse association in Melrose during the 1940s. Initially part of the Red Cross, the Melrose VNA thrived and became an independent nonprofit during the 1980s and then merged with VNA of Boston, part of VNA Care, in 1999.

The initial funds set aside by Seth and Emma grew to nearly $3 million by 2019, when trustees voted to dissolve the Foundation and transfer the funds to VNA of Boston for the continued benefit of Melrose area communities.

Jean Bell played an active role in the success of the Ames Nursing Foundation for more than 30 years. As a former trustee of the Foundation and Melrose VNA board member, she’s witnessed developments in patient care that were once unheard of, such as IV therapy, telemedicine and virtual hospital rooms in patients’ homes.

“It has been an amazing thing to watch,” said Jean. She added that she and other trustees would leave meetings with VNA Care leaders “with stars in our eyes. We’d say, ‘Wow, that was fantastic. Do you believe that they are able to do this?”

Karen Webber, director of Fund Development for VNA Care, said, “Charitable support is critical in meeting patient care needs and providing the most advanced care possible in people’s homes. We are honored that Seth and Emma Ames entrusted us with their legacy, and grateful to the Ames Nursing Foundation trustees for their stewardship of this important gift.”

Learn more about planned gifts
Charitable gifts of any amount made through a will, retirement account, life insurance policy, trust, or other estate plans are a way to leave a legacy and have an impact on the future of home health and hospice care. For more information, please contact Karen Webber, director of fund development, at 508-573-8027 or Laura Wise, manager of fund development, at 617-835-9654.

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Howard and Fredericka Stevenson
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Smeeta Teckchandani
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Raymond and Deborah Vorce
Merrill W. Walsh
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Karen A. Webber and John J. Sheehan
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Ann and G. Mead Wyman

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Louise Todd Ambler
American Alarm
Sherrill and Eric Amundson, DDS
Reginald and Jean Anderson
Roger S. Anderson
Joseph and Shirley Anzivino
Kathleen A. Armstrong
Geila S. Aronson
Pamela and Joel Aronson
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Douglas Berman and Linda Siperstein
Morton Berman
Samuel Berman
Patricia M. Bernard
Jerry M. Bernhard
John D. Bernhard
Gloria Bernstein
Lorrey J. Blanch
Patricia H. Biggar
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Norman Bitsoli
Richard L. Black, Inc.
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Karen Bonollo
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Barbara Brady
Home Health Care in 2019

Patients Served: 27,106
Age Range: 0 to 108
Total Visits: 420,169
Referral Sources: 2,422
Unique Diagnoses: 2,684

Top Five Diagnoses:
1. Joint Replacement & Post-Surgical Care
2. Heart Disease
3. Cancer
4. Respiratory Diseases
5. Diabetes

Unique Diagnoses: 2,684
Referral Sources: 2,422
Total Visits: 420,169
Age Range: 0 to 108

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- Respiratory Diseases
- Cancer
- Heart Disease
- Joint Replacement & Post-Surgical Care

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Daniel V. Murphy
Lester J. Murphy, Jr.
M. Christine Murphy
Moya A. Murphy
Wellness Services in 2019

Keep Well Clinics
Clinics: 818
Attendance: 5,345

Health Education Programs
Talks and Screenings: 67
Attendance: 2,576

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Robert and Wendi Lynn Nadalin
Charles and Stella Nahatis
Mary L. Natti
Deirdre and Barry Nectow
Paul C. Neimann
Donald and Margaret Nelson
Susan and Donald Nelson
Glady S. Newman
Leslie C. Newman
Judith Nichols and Peter Barrer
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Nancy O. Nolan
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Kerry O’Connor
Charles and Andrea O’Donnell
David and Alice O’Leary
John P. O’Leary
Paul and Elaine Olihovik
Theresa Oliver
Mark and Alexandra Olson
Peter and Susan Olson
Gregory and Nancy Opp
Reverend James B. O’Shea
Dr. Harold L. Osher
Barbara F. Ostberg
Edward A. Ostrot
Anthony R. Oteri
William and Jane O’Toole
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Rosemarie and Whitney Parker
Jane H. Parsley
Patriot Community Bank

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Patricia E. Riley
Dianne E. Riley-Klivans
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Sara Robertson
Vernon and Lillaine Robertson
John F. Robinson
Suzanne Rodday
Linda and Richard Rodger, DVM
Bridget Rodriguez and George Anderson
Maria Rokhina
Melvin and Martha Rosenblatt
Alan L. Rosenfield
Barbara O. Ross
John R. Ross
Wendy L. Ross
Mary Ann Rota
Michael and Karen Rotenberg
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Jason Ruggiero
Beverly Rumley
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Gerald J. Russo
Charles Ryan
Elizabeth Ryan
Carmel J. Sabatini
Nicholas H. Safford
Susan M. Saia
Lee and Diane Saltzberg
Charles Samborski, DDS
Steven and Barbara Sanborn
Sylvia B. Sanchez
Catherine and Timothy Sanders
Peter M. Santamaria
Abigail G. Sargent
Rebecca B. Saunders
James and Kelly Sauriol
Jean G. Savage
Richard and Susan Schneider
Paula E. Schultz
Mark Schulze
Kathleen Scully
Second Congregational Church of Boxford
Reverend Sue F. Seeger
Peter and Marjorie Seibert
Peter P. Selines
William and Lucille Seymour
Nancy L. Shafer
Barbara C. Shanahan
Emily Shanahan and Charles Harris
Lisa G. Shaw
Elaine J. Shea
Joseph P. Shea
Carolyn and Orville Sheldon
Henry and Joyce Shepherd
Dorothea Sieradski
April M. Silva
Richard and Linda Simon

Karen and William Simpson
Joan Sindall and MacGregor Freeman
Arnold J. Singer
Thomas M. Sliwowski
Felicitas K. Slocvcs
Albert W. Smith
Donald and Sybil Smith
Joseph P. Smith and Regina P. Pullara-Smith
Michael and Geraldine Smith
Mildred O. Smith
Philip and Winifred Smith
Roseanne D. Smith
Sarah B. Smith
Louis G. Smits
Serger P. Sorokin, MD
Frederick and Doris Sousa
Francis and Jane Spakowski
Caroline A. Spang
Barbara S. Sparks
Doris Speer
Malcolm M. Speicher
Susan Spencer
James and Wendy Spittle
Lynn and Todd St. Germain
Mary Lou Stankiewicz
Pamela D. Stieves
Edmund and Deborah Stein
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Paul M. and Jean Stevens
Susan Brunoli Stillier
Warren and Virginia Stone
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Richard and Gladys Sullivan
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Elaine T. Szerek
Paullett Long Taggart
Hue-Tam Tai
Carykn J. Talbouret
Mollie A. Taylor
Scott Taylor
Wendy and Keith Taylor, OD
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Marina E. Terpstra
Robert and Judith Terry
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Barbara E. Treseback
VNA Care employees give back

Every day, dedicated staff contribute to the mission of VNA Care, providing exceptional home health and hospice care. We are grateful to the following staff for their support of VNA Care’s Fund Development program and participation in our community cabinets and committees:

Elizabeth M. Angeloni
Jennifer Bauman
Jennifer A. Beckwith
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Heroes in Health Care Gala
In-Kind Donors
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Mill River Winery
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Note to Donors:

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this listing. Please notify us of any corrections by contacting Karen Webber, director of Fund Development, at 508-573-8027 or Laura Wise, manager of Fund Development, at 617-835-9654.

With gratitude we thank the many donors who made gifts of up to $99, kindly honored loved ones through memorial donations, and attended our special events. We welcome and appreciate all contributions made to our organization.

We are already planning for our 2020 Donor Report and want you to know about an important change. Next year’s Honor Roll will include the names of individuals and organizations who contribute $250 or more during the calendar year.
25th Anniversary Campaign for the Tippett Hospice Home raises more than $250,000 for renovations and repairs

With an outpouring of support from the community, funding for the 25th Anniversary Campaign for the Tippett Home has been secured! The Campaign raised over $250,000 to make needed repairs and renovations at the residence. The community's generous support will enable us to move forward with projects to increase the care and comfort available to patients and families as well as ensure the structural integrity and energy efficiency of the Tippett Home.

This successful Campaign is a testament to the Tippett Home and the generous community that supports the hospice home's mission. It is a culmination of the efforts of many dedicated donors, volunteers, and family members over the past year. As a result, patients and their families will see benefits for years to come.

The community's continued support has made it possible for our hospice nurses, aides, volunteers, and other team members to care for more than 4,500 terminally ill patients and support many more loved ones before and after their loss since the residence opened.

The following Honor Roll recognizes contributions of $250 and above to the Campaign, due to space limitations. We are incredibly grateful to every donor who generously supported the 25th Anniversary Campaign.

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The Tippett Home's grounds and gardens are an oasis for patients and their loved ones. Our dedicated volunteers maintain the gardens.
Donors honor VNA Care staff for going the extra mile

Thanks for Caring Society donors are patients, family members, friends, and others in the community who make a donation in honor of a nurse, therapist, social worker, chaplain, or other staff member. The following VNA Care Network, VNA of Boston, and VNA Hospice & Palliative Care staff were honored by Thanks for Caring Society donors during 2019. We also wish to recognize the many other clinicians who care for our most vulnerable patients.

**Nursing**
Augustine Abunaw
Shelagh Amrich
Sylvia Asante
Renee Batista
Jennifer Beckwith
Ginette Bernadotte
Barbara Betsher
Andrew Binder
Heather Bliss
Charlotte Boyer
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Stacia Williams
Verna Wilson-Lewis
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Nicole Yang
Lori Zinkavich

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Shawn Allan
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Mauro Bernardino
Nigel Best
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Kenneth Breitenstein
Debra Brown
Galina Brusilovsky
John Budrow
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Nancy Castillo
Michelle Davenport
Melvin Gadd
Sameera Khan
Janet Moore
Sharon Sawyer

**Hospice Chaplains**
Krysia Burnham
Julie Cedrone
Nancy Small

**Hospice Physician**
Deborah Turiano, MD

**Music Therapist**
Cara Brindisi
Nancy Farmer didn’t want to spend another day in a hospital. She had more than her fair share over the past 50 years.

At 19, Nancy had her first heart valve replacement and was told she may only live another 10 years. Nancy lived as fully as possible with her heart condition. She majored in math at Worcester State University at a time when women were discriminated against in math and technology related fields.

She met and married Bradley Farmer in 1973 (pictured below). The two shared a love for travel, camping, motorcycles, and gardening. While her health placed physical limitations on what she could do, she gave back to others as a social worker at the Rape Crisis Center and reading teacher at the Worcester House of Correction.

Nancy continued facing health issues, including a second heart valve replacement and a stroke. As it became clear in early 2019 that Nancy’s time was limited, she and her husband turned to VNA Hospice & Palliative Care to fulfill Nancy’s wish to remain at home.

The hospice team was there for both Nancy and Brad. He shared that the nurses and other members of the team were deeply caring. He remembered how Sharon Sawyer, home health aide, had a knack for making Nancy smile.

Brad received emotional support and also learned practical things to help Nancy, like how to reposition her and change a sheet while she remained in bed.

Nancy passed away on Sunday, July 21, 2019, at home with Brad by her side. Brad honored Nancy and the hospice staff who cared for her with a generous donation to help others in need of end-of-life care. He wrote, “Your help made her last few months of life better. Your help also made my life better. I think about the care she got every day.”