

Newsletter Fall 2019

VNA | Visiting Nurse Association
Easterseals Nebraska

Shaping tomorrow's care.
Today.

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From VNA President and CEO, James Summerfelt



James C. Summerfelt, M.Ed.,
MSPT, president and CEO

VNA has been a healthcare leader in the Omaha Community for 123 years. Our current tagline says *Shaping tomorrow's care today* because we intend to be an innovative, cost-effective,

compassionate, quality healthcare provider for another 123 years.

Being a leader means continually analyzing the healthcare environment and adjusting our business and clinical practices. It means creating distinction between ourselves and similar organizations. We're pursuing profitable revenue growth while honoring our original mission as a community benefit organization. And it means the recruiting and retention of passionate staff capable of providing the highest quality care.

VNA's Leadership Team and Board of Directors recently met with Stephen Tweed, a nationally-recognized healthcare and business strategist, to evaluate and revise VNA and Easterseals' Nebraska's strategic focus. I was impressed

with the commitment of everyone in the room to analyze our current organizational structure and vision for the future. Our culture, values, and excellent service to clients has distinguished VNA as unique among our peers. Every sign points toward our board members and leadership advancing VNA with clear vision, innovative strategies, and quality people.

In August, we made a strategic decision regarding the provision of non-medical care, as our Help at Home division faced a highly competitive market subject to few regulations. Our decision to work with a local organization - Home Care Assistance - will improve our ability to serve more clients in the best possible way. This partnership offers hourly and 24/7 in-home non-medical care by Home Care Assistance, while patients will continue to receive medical level homecare from VNA.

These types of partnerships are the future of healthcare. Working collaboratively with like-minded organizations assures the highest quality care for an ever-expanding continuum of needs. As the years progress, home healthcare and hospice will thrive, not only for the cost savings achieved through receiving services in your home – but also because of the exceptional quality of personalized care that every patient deserves.

Thank you for allowing us to serve you and those you love.

VNA is helping those undergoing breast cancer treatment this October with...

Now Collecting Gift Cards for:

Learn more: VNAtoday.org/Plastic4Pink

vna
Visiting Nurse
Association

TAKE

THE Hassle

OUT

OF ANOTHER Fundraiser!

NOW THRU NOV. 15

You're
NOT INVITED
TO ANOTHER EVENT YOU (SORT OF)
DON'T WANT TO ATTEND.



We've cooked up an idea.

Who has time for yet another fundraiser? At VNA, we want you to spend your precious time with your family, and we'll put that big event budget to better use.



Watch our video or make a donation to #vnaTakeOut online at VNAtoday.org/takeout

CONVENIENCE IS OUR MIDDLE NAME

Just kidding – nurse is our middle name! But it might be more convenient for you to stay at home, just like thousands of our clients. Order in, tip your delivery driver, play some board games, eat some ice cream, and send your fancy fundraiser ticket price to us!

Or send a check to Visiting Nurse Association
12565 W Center Rd., Ste. 100, Omaha, NE 68144

Your Contribution Stays LOCAL

SHARE YOUR LEFTOVERS WITH US!

vna

Every single dollar we raise goes directly to the people who need it the most. We're not spending money renting a venue or paying for entertainment – we're eliminating unnecessary expenses to make the best use of your donations.

VNA's Home Infusion Pharmacy

A prescription for innovative care

Tucked inside VNA's Omaha headquarters is an exclusive club. The doors are locked and only accessible to those with a special key. Inside, people work with little recognition but tremendous impact on our patients and community.

Since 1991, VNA's Home Infusion Pharmacy has been an integral part of a holistic approach to patients, providing coordinated care by a skilled team of pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, dietitians, and nurses. Having an on-site pharmacy means medications are provided quickly to serve the unique and ever changing needs of patients and the nurses who care for them.

In the past, an illness requiring six weeks of IV antibiotics meant a six week hospital stay for the patient. Thanks to modern technology and highly skilled staff, patients today can receive IV therapy in their own homes. The proven benefits of home infusion include lower infection rates, lower treatment cost versus a hospital stay, and most importantly, a comfort advantage for the patient receiving home treatment which speeds the healing process.

VNA's pharmacy is a closed door pharmacy, not a retail outlet where physicians send patient prescriptions for any type of medication. The onsite pharmacy staff focuses on home infusion (IV medications) and hospice care for patients in their homes or in facilities. Home Infusion treatment is appropriate for a wide range of diagnoses, including, but not limited to: infections, pain management, nutrition, congestive heart failure, multiple sclerosis, Crohn's disease, and immune disorders.

VNA pharmacists provide much more than IV medications. The pharmacy staff has over 75 years combined experience in home infusion therapy alone. VNA employs the only Board Certified Nutrition Support Pharmacist in Nebraska, in addition to post-graduate residency trained pharmacists on staff. Working closely with patients' healthcare providers, they perform pharmacokinetic dosing, therapeutic selection, nutrition support, medication education, compliance checks, and drug interaction screening. VNA pharmacists are passionate about providing safe, effective IV therapy in the home, treating every patient like a member of their own family.

Having an on-site pharmacy at VNA assures expedient response to the needs of hospice patients. According to hospice physician Dr. Erin Dahlke, "VNA pharmacists are incredibly efficient and make responding to our patients' sudden changes and needs easy to address. They are an invaluable resource because of their knowledge base. They are great to collaborate with!"



VNA's Pharmacy staff.

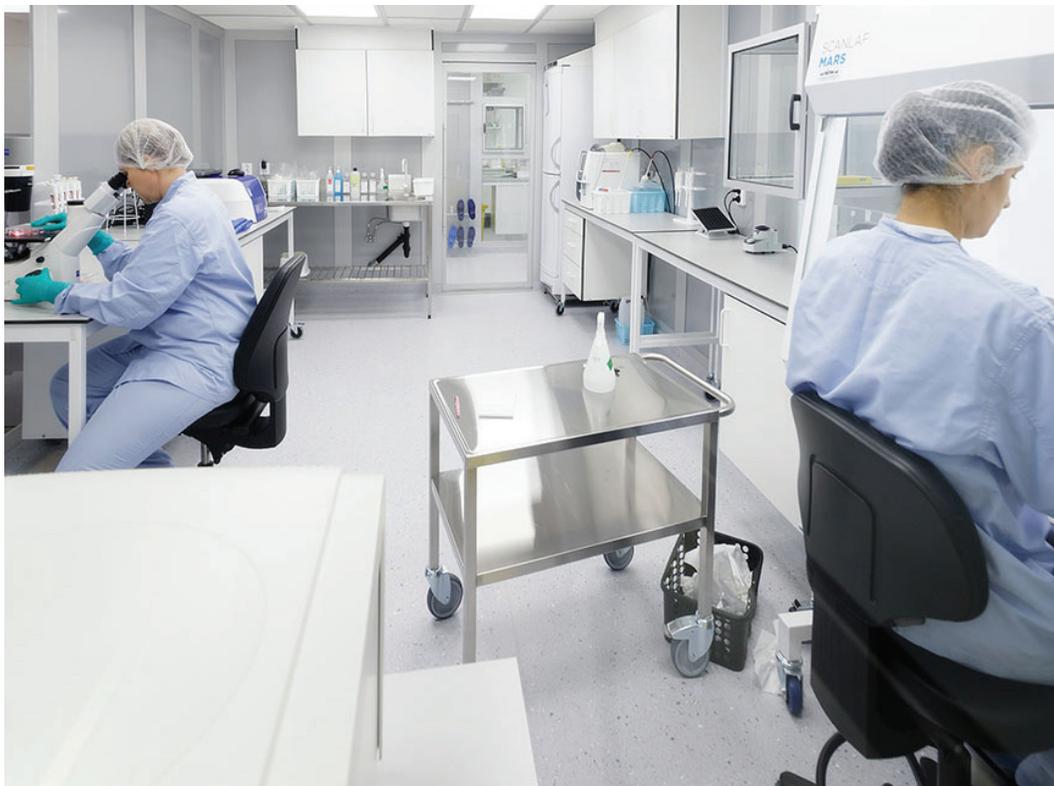
To insure sterility of medications used for home infusion, those medications must be prepared by skilled staff in a highly controlled area called a cleanroom. A cleanroom is an enclosed space in which airborne particulates, contaminants, and pollutants are kept within strict limits by the use of a HEPA filtration system.

In 2018, VNA's pharmacy significantly expanded services when Nebraska Methodist Health System closed their home care and hospice services and partnered with VNA. With increasing demand for our pharmacy's expertise, VNA is in the process of updating and expanding the pharmacy cleanroom and workspace.

"VNA's Home Infusion Pharmacy is a prominent example of the dedicated staff we have available to provide expert and compassionate care," says Jamie Summerfelt, VNA President and CEO. "VNA is proud to be a healthcare leader in the Omaha and Council Bluffs community, providing quality care through innovative means that allow our patients to rest and recover at home."



VNA nurse Wanda Bowles administers infusion therapy.



A rendering of VNA's new pharmacy cleanroom, which will provide expanded space to prepare medications.



It's more than a flu shot.

Protect
yourself
your loved ones
your community

No appointment needed.

VNA Flu Clinic

Monday through Thursday
September 16 - November 15
11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.
VNA Headquarters
12565 West Center Road

You can also invest in
your employees' health by
scheduling a VNA flu clinic
at your business.

- Decrease absences and overall healthcare costs
- Increase convenience and employee participation
- Administered by a VNA registered nurse
- Bill most major insurance plans
- Proceeds from flu clinics are re-invested into the community

Contact Jill at 402.930.4220 or
jdigerness@vnatoday.org

vnatoday.org/flu



Camp for All

It is hard to believe the end of summer is already here. 2019 Easterseals Nebraska (ESN) Camp brought so many incredible memories: non-stop energy in the dining hall, crazy dance parties, conquering fears on the flying squirrel rope course, daily walks with friends, lazy canoe rides, splashing in the pool, and long horseback rides. We are already counting the days until next summer!

ESN believes friendship, fun and play pave the way for a full life. That's why we provide engaging, healthy, and lively programs during our weeklong residential summer camps that are designed to serve individuals of all abilities across the life span, tailoring services to the needs of each individual. Campers gain independence and social interaction skills participating in a variety of adapted activities, while their caregivers get a needed respite to relax and connect with friends and family.

ESN camp had another record-breaking year: 228 campers! Each year, nearly 80% of campers rely on some type of financial assistance to attend camp. Because of you, we were able to meet the financial needs of all campers this summer. ESN Camp couldn't thrive without you; thank you for making camp accessible for all.

With the growth in campers, our new challenge is facility capacity. We have started to plan for a new era of ESN camp, and look forward to sharing it with you soon!



Above: Dave celebrating his 50th summer coming to ESN camp



Community generosity made the camp experience possible for so many this year. You can give the gift of camp by donating via the attached envelope or online at vnatoday.org/ESNcamps.



12565 West Center Rd, Ste 100
Omaha, NE 68144

NonProfit
Organization
U.S. Postage
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Omaha, NE
Permit No. 603

Events

VNA at the Village

Thursday, October 10th
5:00 - 7:30 pm

Village Pomegranate and
Linen Gallery are having a
VNA VIP Wine & Cheese Event.

Countryside Village
8724 Pacific, Omaha NE 68114

The holidays are right around the
corner! Enjoy sips and
snacks while you shop!

October 7-12, 10% of all
proceeds will benefit VNA!

Giving Tuesday

Tuesday, December 3rd

#GivingTuesday is a global day
of giving celebrated on the
Tuesday following Thanksgiving.
On December 3rd, consider
celebrating the impact of VNA
on your family, friends and
community by making an online
donation to VNA in memory or in
honor of someone you love.

Visit vnatoday.org/donate

Art & Soup

Sunday, February 23rd, 2020

Patron Party 1-2pm
Art & Soup 2-5pm

Embassy Suites La Vista
12520 Westport Pkwy
La Vista, NE 68128

Visit vnatoday.org/artandsoup
to learn more.

For questions, email
reaton@vnatoday.org or
call 402.930.4170



Visit us at
vnatoday.org

