

Newsletter Spring 2021

VNA | Visiting Nurse Association
Easterseals Nebraska



A VNA Nurse in every homeless and domestic violence shelter

Inside

Letter from VNA President & CEO
COVID-19 Update
Art & Soup
125th Anniversary

I see Nurse Amber
for my health problems
and friendship. I've
known her 4 years!

Shaping tomorrow's care.
Today.



From VNA President and CEO, James Summerfelt



As we celebrate Women's History Month in March, it is a fitting time to recognize Visiting Nurse Association's 125th Anniversary. In 1896, VNA began through the vision of one young Omaha woman who believed everyone deserved access to healthcare and health education. She recruited other women to serve alongside her, taking health services into the streets and into homes.

Today – 125 years later – VNA proudly provides healthcare and supportive services wherever people call home. We celebrate that we go where others don't and serve who others won't. We accept the challenging referrals and difficult cases so vulnerable men and women don't go without compassionate, experienced care.

Every day, we cross the threshold of homes and enter a sacred space that reflects the unique life, story, and heart of each person we serve. We enter as nurses, social workers, therapists, dieticians, health aides, and chaplains. And we are successful and sustainable because we believe every person is valuable, no matter the hand life has dealt, or the ability to afford quality care.

Ours is truly an amazing legacy to celebrate! In this newsletter we're highlighting the work of VNA nurses who serve individuals and families that call the local homeless and domestic violence shelters "home." We're proud to work alongside shelter staff, helping their residents transition into permanent housing while teaching them how to manage aspects of their health that have long been ignored.

Thank you for the support many of you have provided. The needs of the vulnerable in Omaha and Council Bluffs are increasing, and VNA remains steadfast in our commitment to deliver community-based care that provides peace of mind, quality of life, and independence. Please consider a generous donation in celebration of a milestone year. Because of you, we can impact lives today, tomorrow, and for another 125 years.



COVID Update

Progress has been made in the COVID-19 battle: the local COVID positivity rate is down to 5%, and there has not been an increase in COVID cases in the Omaha Metro for almost two months. Everyone needs to remain vigilant in safety practices so we can return to some sense of “normal” by the summer. Keep these things in mind:

- **Continue to practice COVID safety:** wear a mask, wash your hands, and maintain physical distance from others.
- **Get vaccinated as soon as possible.** VNA has over 60 nurses actively partnering with the Douglas County Health Department to vaccinate frontline healthcare workers and community members.
 - There are five different vaccination clinic locations; details are available on our website at www.vnatoday.org (then click on the COVID-19 link)
 - If you're 65 or older, you can schedule an appointment by going to www.douglascountyhealth.com
 - If you need assistance making an appointment, or if you are homebound and need an at-home vaccination, call 402-444-3400
 - If you're younger than 65 with underlying health conditions, go to www.vaccinate.ne.gov
- Being vaccinated doesn't mean you're in the clear: The COVID vaccine does not kill or destroy the virus if you're exposed. It simply trains your body to successfully fight off the virus so you do not get sick. A vaccinated person could continue to spread the live virus to others, and with only 7% of our state population currently vaccinated, we can't risk exposing others.

VNA's clinical staff continue to care for members of the community we love, using infection control protocols with every patient. Since March 2020, we've used:



28,077
masks

1,522
gowns



94,730
gloves

7,540
ounces
of hand
sanitizer

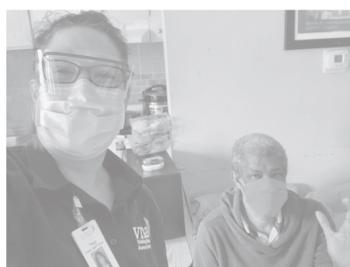
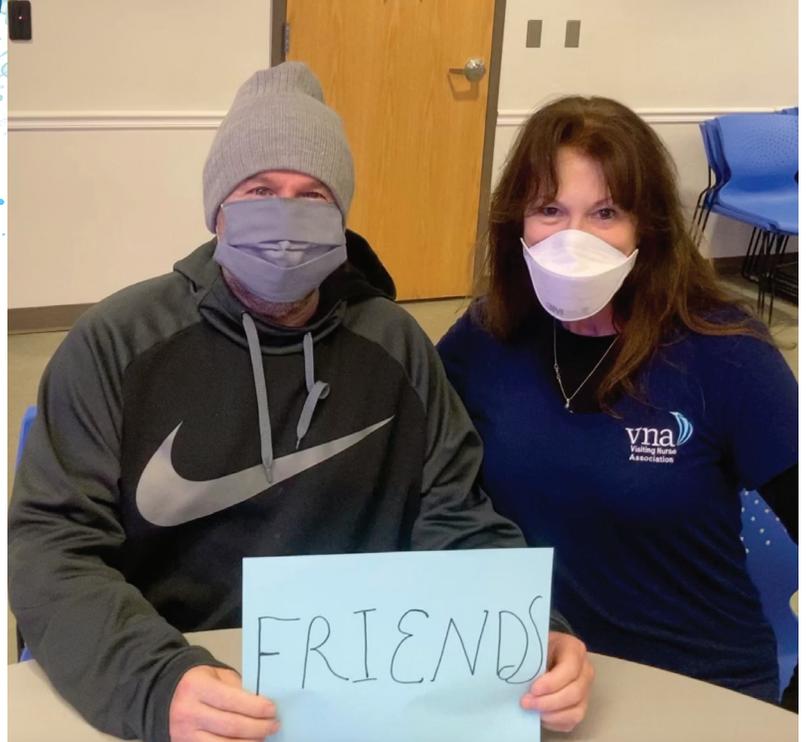




THERE'S NEVER BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT TIME FOR VNA NURSES TO BE IN EVERY LOCAL HOMELESS AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SHELTER

VNA is proud to provide public health nursing services to homeless individuals and families within shelters, permanent supportive housing, addiction recovery programs, and to youth and adults living on the street. In partnership with the local shelters, VNA nurses are devoted to helping those who call the shelters or streets "home" with:

- Establishment of a medical home;
- Preventive services;
- Coordination with other service providers;
- Assistance in acquiring necessary medications;
- Guidance and advocacy, especially when navigating healthcare and community resources;
- Mental and chronic health management focused on education; and
- On-going follow-up to build the skill set for clients to independently manage and advocate their own health needs.



THE VNA SHELTER NURSING PROGRAM IS FUNDED SOLELY THROUGH GRANTS AND DONATIONS.

If you can't participate in Art & Soup, please consider a donation through the enclosed remittance envelope or online at:

www.vnatoday.org/donate.

Participating in this year's Art & Soup fundraiser is as easy as 1-2-3

BECAUSE OF COVID, ART & SOUP 2021 GOES VIRTUAL . . . BUT THE NEED FOR VNA NURSES IN LOCAL SHELTERS IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER!

1 BUY YOUR TICKETS at www.vnatoday.org/artandsoup

- \$100 Patron \$50 General Admission (your dollars directly support VNA nurses in local shelters!). With your 2021 Art & Soup ticket, you receive:
- Access to our virtual platform with one of a kind artwork from local artists
- A **Soup Passport** for a free cup of soup at every participating restaurant

2 SHOP FOR ART AND BID AT THE AUCTION

- **Patrons April 10 – 17, General Admission April 12 – 17**
- **One of a kind art** – paintings/sketches, print making, jewelry, photography, pottery, wood crafting, mixed media, metal works, fused glass, and fiber. Artists are donating 50% of sales to VNA's shelter nursing program!
- **Silent Auction** - unique outings and experiences, collectibles, and event tickets go to the highest bidder, with every dollar raised supporting public health nursing for homeless men, women, and children

3 PARTICIPATE IN THE DRIVE-THROUGH ART PICK UP AND SOUP FESTIVAL

- Sunday, April 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Embassy Suites La Vista parking lot
- Music, entertainment, and to-go soup samplers await you at the art/silent auction pick-up and soup festival. Pull into the Embassy Suites parking lot and we'll load up your car!

ART & SOUP RAISES FUNDS TO ENSURE VNA NURSES SERVE CLIENTS ALONGSIDE THESE COMMUNITY PARTNERS:





At VNA, a 125 year mission has endured:

To help vulnerable people

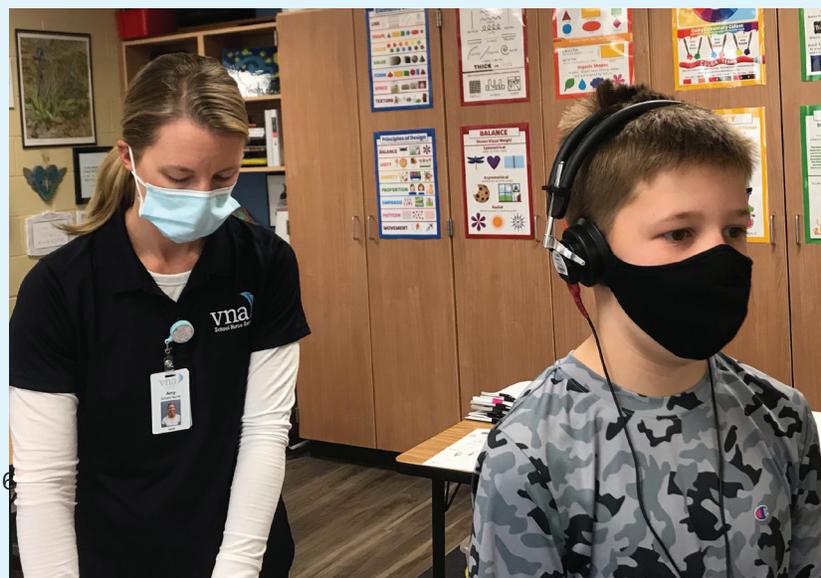
To help those who struggle to pay for healthcare, medicine, or support

To help those who need assistance to remain independent in their homes

To help position families for a lifetime of success

With your support and our expertise, together we can improve the lives and health of people in Nebraska and western Iowa. Today. Tomorrow. And for the next 125 years.

We invite you to join VNA in ensuring quality healthcare is accessible to those who need it, but can't afford it. Donations can be made using the enclosed remittance envelope or online at www.vnatoday.org/donate. Your support is life-changing for the most vulnerable in our community!





VNA is fortunate to have an in-house pharmacy as part of our continuum of care that allows us to meet the ever-changing needs of our patients.

2020 saw the expansion of VNA's pharmacy and medical supply department allowing for the care of a greater number and complexity of patients. Our beautiful new state-of-the-art pharmacy has many people and months behind its development. Thank you to the VNA Board of Directors and Leadership team, Lund Property Management, Lozier Corporation, and VNA IT and pharmacy staff for making this project possible.

Since its completion in December 2020, VNA pharmacy has dispensed nearly 4,000 prescriptions, including intrathecal medications to enhance mobility, injectable patient controlled analgesia for pain control and comfort, intravenous antibiotics, chronic disease infusions, life sustaining parenteral and enteral nutrition, and hospice oral medications.

The VNA medical supply department continues to provide the infrastructure and support system needed for frontline healthcare providers during COVID-19. Their focus has been to maintain the necessary Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to care for patients, plus cleaning, disinfecting, and sanitizing equipment.



VNA 2021 Board of Directors

Executive Committee



**Taina Evans,
Board Chair**

Director of Specialty
Clinics, Boys Town National
Research Hospital



**Jason Hansen,
Board Vice Chair**

President, American
National Bank



**Adam Kuenning,
Board Treasurer**

Corporate Legal
Counsel, Immanuel



**Richard Secor,
Board Secretary**

Partner, The Lund
Company

**Welcome to our new
board members!**

Joseph Castellanos

Bilingual Manager/Customer Care,
First National Bank of Omaha

Sean Winekauf

Director of Operational Risk Management,
Mutual of Omaha

Thanks to all who serve VNA and Easterseals Nebraska as Board Members:

Deborah Bass

Retired, Former CEO of NeHII, Inc.

Steve Baumert

President, Methodist Jennie Edmundson
Hospital

Fawn Bottolfson

Corporate Charity/Community Outreach
Coordinator, Omaha Track

Terri Bruening

Chief Nursing Officer/Vice President of Patient
Care, Nebraska Methodist Health System

Karen Bruzzano

Senior Vice President/Head of IT Service
Delivery, Bank of the West

Kelly Butts-Elston

CEO, Connections/Southwest 8 Senior Services

Dr. Harris Frankel

Chief Medical Officer/Senior Vice President,
Nebraska Medicine

Craig Flanagan

CFO, WesleyLife

Beth Furlong

Associate Professor Emerita/Center for Health
Policy and Ethics, Creighton University

Elizebeth Murphy

President, Emspace + Lovgren

Sue Nuss

Chief Nursing Officer, Nebraska Medicine

Carrie Phillips

Cardiovascular Service Line Executive,
Nebraska Methodist Health System

James Summerfelt

President and CEO, VNA and Easterseals
Nebraska



DO GOOD WEEK: April 19 – 24

In partnership with Omaha Community Foundation, SHARE Omaha is introducing **DO GOOD WEEK** April 19-24, with a single website destination for online giving and volunteer opportunities focused on non-profits like Visiting Nurse Association and Easterseals Nebraska.

The Omaha Gives day of giving has been retired, and SHARE Omaha is now focusing on 365-day giving as well as special events. During **DO GOOD WEEK**, we will share information about our mission, programs in need of donations, wish list items, and volunteer needs. More information coming soon on the VNA website (www.vnatoday.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/VisitingNurseAssociation).