



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT, INC.

News Release

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For Immediate Release

VNA of South Central Connecticut Receives Major Grant to Address Certified

Nurse's Aide Shortage – *Grant Funding for Certified Nurse's Aide Training Program Provided by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven*

New Haven, CT (December 22, 2009) – [The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut](#) (VNA/SCC) (www.vnascc.org) has received a grant for \$135,000 from [The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven](#) (<http://www.cfgnh.org/>) to fund the research, development and implementation of a certified nurse's aide training program based in New Haven.

This grant serves two vital purposes: (1) it allows the VNA/SCC to develop and implement a certified nurse's aide training program that will specifically address the growing need for qualified para-professional support in the field of home care and (2) it provides a means to reach out to members of the community who may not otherwise be able to afford to attend a training program and offers them a low-cost education that will elevate their ability to find meaningful employment while satisfying a growing health care need.

“We are pleased that The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven has the confidence in our proposal to establish and lead this innovative effort,” John Quinn, President & CEO of VNA Health Systems said.

According to Fazzi Associates, a home care consulting firm, the specific challenge of hiring certified nurse's aides will continue to grow, with an additional 350,000 being needed nationally by 2014. This is due to the fact that 8 out of 10 hours of paid care received by long term care clients is provided by a para-professional such as certified nurse's aide, personal care attendant and home health aide.

Additionally, with state-level initiatives, such as [Money Follows the Person](http://tinyurl.com/y9o3zsv) (<http://tinyurl.com/y9o3zsv>), there will be an increasing focus on home care as a cost-effective alternative to institutional care for these long-term care patients. This poses a dramatic strain on our local health care system.

“Again, we have taken the initiative to develop an innovative solution to meet the emerging community health care needs,” Quinn said. “Generous support from The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven allows us to offset the cost of the training program, which is often a direct barrier to growing the employable paraprofessional work force.”

Funding for this program is made by possible through the Jennie C. Bronson, Anne Hope Bennett and William & Barbara Hoblitzelle funds at The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven. Each fund was established by bequest with a preference for distributions to be used for various health services. Since 1928, donors to The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven have built the community's endowment of 700 named funds valued at approximately \$270 million. For more information about the work of The Community Foundation visit www.cfgnh.org.

About VNA Health Systems

VNA Health Systems is comprised of the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) and *CareSource*, Inc.

Founded in 1904, the VNA/SCC, the original VNA of New Haven, Milford and the Valley, is a state licensed, non-profit, community based home health care agency. The VNA/SCC staff consists of highly skilled nurses, therapists, medical social workers and home health aides. A vital resource to the communities it serves, the VNA/SCC provides a wide range of specialized clinical services, community programs, the Nurturing Families Network and subsidized care to those who are in need. The agency

employs over 240 staff members, has an average daily census of over 1,000 patients and makes over 150,000 home visits per year. The agency is the founder of the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*. The VNA/SCC is supported in part by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, local United Way organizations, corporate sponsors and individual donors.

CareSource strives to maximize the quality of life for its clients and their caregivers in the home and health care settings. Their services include private duty nursing, homemakers, companions and live-in home health aides. Both VNA/SCC and CareSource are CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Program) accredited. To learn more about the organizations, log onto www.vnascc.org or www.caresourceinc.org. To view quality information about VNA/SCC, as reported by Medicare, log onto www.medicare.gov and click on the link: Compare Home Care Agencies.

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