



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT, INC.

News Release

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For Immediate Release

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal to serve as Honorary Chair & Keynote Speaker of the 10th Annual Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing

New Haven, CT (March 2, 2010) – John R. Quinn, President & CEO, of The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) announced today that Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal will serve as Honorary Chair & Keynote Speaker of its 10th anniversary of the Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing, which will be held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010 at the Oakdale Theater in Wallingford, Conn.

“I have long been an advocate of quality health care,” Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said. “The nurses on the frontlines are vital to the delivery of effective, quality care that can truly make the difference in a patient’s treatment and recovery. I am pleased to serve as the honorary chair of the Nightingale Awards for Nursing Excellence, which honors some of the best nurses throughout our state.”

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* program was originally developed in 2001 by the [Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut](#) to be a collaborative effort to celebrate outstanding nurses and elevate the nursing profession. The goal of the Nightingale Awards are to encourage retention, inspire future nurses, focus public attention on and recognize the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level. In 2003, the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* grew to

include *Programs* in Greater Fairfield, Greater Hartford, and Eastern CT as well as the original program in New Haven.

“Attorney General Blumenthal has been a longtime supporter of the nursing profession and this year he had special cause to recognize the vital role visiting nurses play in serving the community and its underserved populations,” Quinn said. “During the recent shortage of flu vaccines, the attorney general questioned the pharmaceutical giants in regards to actual supply of the vaccines and associated costs. He helped secure our ordered supplies of vaccines and enabled nurses to do their jobs effectively and efficiently.”

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* are non-competitive and inclusive of all health care settings - hospitals, home health care, health centers, schools, health departments, long-term care facilities, nursing schools, agencies, and medical practices. Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses (full or part-time) who demonstrate excellence may be nominated for recognition by their employers if they are involved in clinical practice, leadership, scholarship, and/or education. To learn more about the event or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.nightingalenursingawards.org/newhaven/>.

Sponsorship opportunities for the event are available. For more information about becoming a sponsor or supporting the awards event contact Jennifer Bernheim, Public Relations Coordinator, at 203-859-6765 or email nightingale@vnascc.org. Major sponsorship benefits include attending a private pre-event reception with Attorney General Richard Blumenthal.

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 230 staff members, has an average daily census of over 1,000 patients and makes over 170,000 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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