



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT, INC.

News Release

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For Immediate Release

VNA of South Central CT Addresses Emerging Need for Cancer Care in the Home

The Valley Community Foundation Provides Grant for VNA/SCC Cancer Care Specialty Program

New Haven, CT (December 23, 2009) – The Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) (www.vnascc.org) was recently awarded a \$6,700 grant from [The Valley Community Foundation](http://www.valleyfoundation.org/) (<http://www.valleyfoundation.org/>) to have two nurses become Oncology Certified and receive continuing education throughout the year.

The Oncology Certified nurses will serve clients of the VNA/SCC's growing Cancer Care Specialty Program (CCSP), which provides an interdisciplinary approach to client care by offering comprehensive oncology assessments, case management, access to community programs, social work, physical and occupational therapy, and home health aide services. Having additional Oncology Certified nurses will further enable VNA/SCC to provide much needed cancer care to residents of the Lower Naugatuck Valley.

John Quinn, President and CEO of VNA Health Systems, the parent company of VNA/SCC and CareSource, Inc. stated, "I am very grateful to The Valley Community Foundation for approving our grant request. This will enable us to enhance the scope of clinical services that we are able to bring to Valley residents, keeping pace with the emerging health care trends that affect our communities."

According to “*United States Cancer Statistics: 1999–2005 Incidence and Mortality Web-based Report.*” Atlanta: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Cancer Institute; 2009 (www.cdc.gov/uscs), the incidence of Cancer as measured in male and female combined rates for Connecticut vs. the National Average shows that the rate of Cancer incidence is higher in Connecticut in 8 out of 10 categories of Cancer. This higher rate of Cancer incidence in Connecticut demands Oncology Certified nurses.

“As a non-profit home health care organization, we are responsible for meeting the needs of the community. It’s unfortunate, but evident, that there is a great need for oncology treatment,” Carla Giugno, RN, BSN, Vice President of Clinical Services said. “Through our Cancer Care Specialty Program, we are able to provide this treatment in our patients’ homes, allowing them to receive exceptional care where they are most comfortable.”

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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