

homecoming

2006 annual report issue

Message from the President

Joanne Handy, RN, MS



What is a hero?

A hero in Greek mythology and folklore was originally a demi-god, the offspring of a mortal and a deity. Later, hero (male) and heroine (female) came to refer to characters that, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, display courage and the will for self-sacrifice, that is, heroism, for some greater good. The literal meaning of the word is "protector", "defender" or "guardian". In modern movies, the hero is often simply an ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances, who, despite the odds being stacked against him or her, typically prevails in the end.

The Visiting Nurse Association of Boston has been serving the Greater Boston community since 1886, when it was established as the country's first home healthcare provider. This year; the VNAB is celebrating our 120th anniversary. A milestone worth celebrating!

As we began to reflect on the past 120 years, our accomplishments and all the good the organization has provided to the Greater Boston community, we realized that quite simply we would not have been able to accomplish all that we have without the help, concern and commitment of so many other people. As a direct result of the unwavering support from our staff, funders, elected officials, community advocates and cherished friends, the VNAB has been able to carry out its original mission to 'care for the sick and the poor in their own homes' for the past century.

For the past year, the VNAB has

celebrated the contributions of 120 local Heroes who have been integral to its ongoing mission and success. These Heroes have come from all walks of life: physicians, police officers, funders, patients, donors, community leaders, advocates and, of course, our nurses.

To culminate our year long celebration of 'Heroes in Home Healthcare' the VNAB hosted an extraordinary gala event to honor a select group of Heroes at The Four Seasons Hotel, Boston. Included among the individuals whom we honored are:

Mayor Thomas M. Menino
Community Leadership Hero

Bank of America
Corporate Hero

Shepard Remis, Esquire
Lifetime Achievement Hero

The evening's program was hosted by local television personality Darci Fisher and sought to engage the 350 attendees - both emotionally as well as intellectually and the evening's program illustrated the dynamic work of the VNAB and the relationships between the caregiver and patient.

In addition to honoring our Heroes, the primary goal of the dinner was to raise vital funds for the organizations Maternal

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Child Health and Charitable Care programs that provide home and community-based care to our communities most vulnerable and needy children and their families in the areas of maternal/child health, infant and pediatric care, Early Intervention for developmental delays, Early Head Start and social work support for at risk families.

Our first annual Gala was a rousing success raising \$250,000. Every dollar that is raised will help the VNAB reach out and help families cope with the impact of a low birth weight baby, a critically ill child, a child with developmental delays or teenage pregnancy.

As we embark on our next 120 years, we will continue to embrace the support of so many of our heroes.

120 Years, 120 Heroes in Home Healthcare

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Charitable Care

In 2006, generous VNAB donors found many ways to help provide compassionate and high quality home health care to their family, friends, neighbors and community. If anything embodies the spirit of the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston, it is our commitment to providing care to everyone who needs it regardless of ability to pay.

Heroes in Home Healthcare Gala - "120 Years - 120 Heroes of Home Healthcare"

On Saturday, March 18, 2006 at Boston's Four Season's Hotel, the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston commemorated 120 years of delivering the highest quality of care to its community in the home care setting with the production of an extraordinary Gala Event. Throughout the year, the VNAB celebrated the contributions of 120 local Heroes who have been integral to its ongoing mission and success. These Heroes have come from all walks of life: physicians, police officers, funders, patients, donors, community leaders, advocates and, of course, our nurses.

To culminate this year-long celebration of 'Heroes in Home Healthcare' the VNAB honored a select group of additional Heroes. Included among the individuals whom were honored are: Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Community Leadership Hero; Bank of America, Corporate Hero; and Shepard Remis, Esquire, Lifetime Achievement Hero.

VNA of Boston' Fall Wine Tasting

On Wednesday, November 8, 2006 at the Westin Copley Place, the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston hosted their first annual Fall Wine Tasting. Over 100 guests enjoyed the sweeping views of Boston's Back Bay while sampling wine from around the world.

Holiday Express Train Ride

Our December 3rd Holiday Express Train Ride brought more than 2000 people together to celebrate the excellence of our visiting nurses and to support our charitable care and maternal child health programs.

For over thirteen years, the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston's Holiday Express Train Ride has allowed children and adults; dressed in their pajamas, live the experience of the little boy in The Polar Express, written by Chris Van Allsburg.

Giving

More than 800 friends made personal donations to the VNAB in 2006. Many did so out of thanks for home health care services they or a loved one received in the past. Others gave because they believe the highest quality health care should be available to all, without regard to ability to pay.

VNAB was proud to be the means through which so many generous people reached out to their neighbors in need. Many of our friends made their much-appreciated donations directly. Others gave through special giving programs such as:

Memorial and Honor Gifts - Many people made their gifts in honor or in memory of a loved one who was cared for by the VNAB, or who requested donations be made in their name. Those who give often say that a gift to provide care to people in need is the perfect way to remember a loved one who lived with compassion and generosity.

Bequests - There are many ways of giving, now and in the future, that help make it possible to provide others with the same compassionate quality care given to you or a loved one. Many generous donors also made gifts through their wills. A bequest is often the most realistic way for donors to provide a substantial contribution to the VNA of Boston Foundation in the future. Many types of bequests are available to help specify how assets are distributed.

Corporate and Matching Gifts - Corporate donors make very careful decisions about the charitable organizations that receive their donations. That is why VNAB is especially proud and grateful for the many corporate grants we received in 2006. We also received donations from employers who matched their employees' generosity to VNAB. We hope to uphold our tradition of meeting the high standards of institutional donors.

Car Donations - Many people choose to give back to the VNAB by donating a vehicle. Many people do not realize that their old vehicle could be the best gift of all.

In 2006 we provided charitable care services to nearly 1000 individuals who had no where else to turn. VNAB must continue to respond to the growing and changing home health care needs of the Greater Boston Community. In an environment of rising health care costs, we must continue to assure that we can help those in need. This can only be accomplished with your continued support.

homecoming

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financial summary

Consolidated Financial Summary for VNA of Boston Year Ending 12/31/06

Operating Revenue	
Patient Care	\$45,755,083
Free Care	(253,453)
United Way of Mass Bay	242,555
Grants and Contribution	771,923
Other Income	372,686
Net assets released from restrictions	42,113
Total	46,930,907
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Operating Expenses	
Compensation & Other Benefits	\$38,038,276
Medical Supplies	1,571,394
Other Expenses	4,507,257
Total	44,116,927
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Operating Income	\$2,813,980
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Non-Operating Revenue	
Investment and Other Income	\$739,243
Excess of Revenues over Expenses	\$3,553,223

2006 donors

The Visiting Nurse Association of Boston would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all who gave in 2006. Donor contributions enabled the VNAB to provide home care for the many uninsured patients and countless others whose circumstances limit their ability to pay. All gifts made to the VNAB by individuals, foundations, and corporations make an important contribution to the health of all individuals. We sincerely appreciate the caring that these gifts represent and their critical importance to our charitable care mission.

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500 Rutherford Avenue, Suite 101
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homecoming

Homecoming is a quarterly newsletter for agency friends and supporters. It highlights important news and information about the VNA of Boston and affiliates VNA Hospice Care and VNA Private Care.

If you have any comment or suggestion regarding our homecoming newsletter, please contact the agency's Development and Communications department at: (617) 886-6463.

Importance of Giving

The VNA of Boston fosters a spirit of giving by making health care solutions a reality for our community. While the costs of treating patients are typically covered through Medicaid, Medicare and private health insurance companies, these sources do not provide adequate reimbursement for the VNA of Boston to deliver home health care for all those in need in our community. This capability is greatly dependent upon private philanthropic resources.

Contributions through the annual appeal, memorial donations, special gifts, honorariums, and support of the VNA of Boston Holiday Express Train Ride, Wine Tasting and annual Heroes Gala are the vehicles by which the agency is able to provide free care to needy patients, develop new programs, and provide continuing education to the professional staff.

The VNA of Boston is an essential institution in our community. We rely on the contributions of individuals, corporations, foundations and government agencies to fulfill our mission to care for all, regardless of their ability to pay for care.

We are extremely grateful to our individual and institutional donors, and we appeal to others to join our VNA of Boston circle of friends and supporters. Donors have enabled us to remain a vital force in insuring the health of people in all neighborhoods of Greater Boston. On behalf of the Visiting Nurse Association of Boston Board of Directors, staff, patients and their families, they have our profound appreciation and gratitude for enabling our agency to remain a vital force in promoting the good health of our community.

Remarkable things happen at The Visiting Nurse Association of Boston every day. But we can't do it without your help. We invite you to explore the many ways you can give to The VNA of Boston - and touch the life some of the most vulnerable members of your community, what greater contribution could anyone make? We encourage others to join the VNA of Boston family of supporters by contacting the VNA of Boston Foundation at 617-886-6463.

