

Visiting Nurse Service &
Hospice of Suffolk, Inc.

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**VISITING NURSE SERVICE &
HOSPICE OF SUFFOLK, INC.**

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MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY

Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk is a participating agency of
The Townwide Fund of Huntington and the United Way of Long Island.



**UPCOMING EVENTS!
MARK YOUR
CALENDARS NOW!**

A Taste of Long Island - Thursday, March 31, 2011 - Larkfield Manor

A unique wine, food & beer tasting event held at the Larkfield Manor in East Northport, 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm. Advance tickets are \$60 per person (\$75 at door) includes tastings from Long Island restaurants, breweries and vineyards, along with live entertainment and a 50/50 raffle. Honoring Outstanding Community Leader, Linda M. Taylor, CEO of Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk.

Afternoon of Art - With One Stroke - Sunday, April 10 - Mastic Beach Property Owners Association

10 local artists are uniting to raise money for Hospice House. Each artist will donate a piece of their art to be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Wine & cheese will be served. A \$5.00 minimum donation is requested at the door, all proceeds will be donated to VNSHS. Mastic Beach Property Owners Association is located at the corner of Neighborhood Road and Orchid Drive, 2:00 pm - 6:00 pm

11th Annual Run for the Health of It! 5K Race/Walk & Kids Fun Run - Saturday, May 7, 2011

To benefit our Annual Bereavement Retreat for Children. You can sponsor a runner or take part in the race. Bring your friends to run or walk with you for our cause. See inside for registration information.

SAVE THE DATE - 7th Annual Golf Classic - Monday, August 1, 2011 - Huntington Country Club

Sponsored again this year by ITT Electronic Systems

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON EVENTS, PLEASE CONTACT BARBARA SORELLE AT 631-930-9310



VISITING NURSE SERVICE & HOSPICE OF SUFFOLK, INC.

VISIT US ONLINE AT
www.visitingnurseservice.org

COMMUNITY FOCUS

NEWSLETTER OF VISITING NURSE SERVICE & HOSPICE OF SUFFOLK, INC.

Dear Friends of VNS & Hospice of Suffolk:

Would you recommend Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk to a friend or family member, or use our services again yourself? The answer to that question is a key indicator of patient satisfaction that matters so much to us. It's such an important measure of quality that it is among the data Medicare collects to compare all participating agencies across the country. To do this, Medicare requires all agencies to utilize a uniform questionnaire administered by an independent Medicare approved vendor. A sample of families we care for receive this questionnaire after services end, in our case from Fazzi Associates in Massachusetts, which when completed is returned and scored. Results of our surveys, along with others, will be posted on Medicare's website Home Health Compare where other performance measures are already routinely published. Besides giving the general public an opportunity to "shop" for the best, such comparisons are in preparation for anticipated changes to the Medicare payment system that will ultimately "pay for performance" and financially reward the best.

The ultimate compliment and measure of satisfaction most gratifying to me, is when employees of VNSHS utilize our own services for their family and friends. While deeply saddened to lose our valued and cherished Hospice nurse, who passed at our Hospice House on Christmas Day, we were privileged to care



From our hearts to yours,
Linda Taylor, RN, BSN, MA
Chief Executive Officer

for her as one of our own family, and grateful to her family for the trust they placed in us. More recently this year we were again privileged to care for a long time employee since retired, who also trusted her care to us in her last days at the Hospice House. Beyond hospice care in our house, our staff in the Home Health Agency have lovingly cared for family and friends of their colleagues at VNSHS, my own included, because we have first hand knowledge of the care and competence that they can count on. At Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk we strive to care for all as we would wish to receive care ourselves, so it's no surprise that when we need help ourselves, we seek it here too.

SPRING 2011



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MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERYDAY

Soiree into the Evening



Linda Taylor graciously accepts a check from the Rotary Club of Northport. Pictured with Ms. Taylor, are Teri George, Ann Stevens, Northport Rotary Club President Dana Sydney and Bob Cogliati, VNSHS Board President

The Rotary Club of Northport proudly hosted its 4th annual, "A Winter Soiree" at The Northport Yacht Club on February 12, 2011, and in keeping with Valentine's Day weekend, the theme for this year's event was 'Have a Heart for Hospice'. Festive red and white décor adorned the waterfront locale that the yacht club offers making for a very celebratory evening.

It was a cold winter's night, but the standing room only crowd forgot the evening's chill while vocalists Megan DeRiso and Kevin Kaye, as well as Rotary's own pianist Ann Stevens entertained guests. VNSHS board member and past president of the Rotary Club of Northport, Teri George joined the fun and sang into the night along with her band, The Connection. Guests mingled and savored a lavish

spread of select international hors d'oeuvres, with gourmet desserts compliments of Copenhagen Bakery.

More than \$10,000 was raised for the Hospice House, and donated in honor of Jay Walsh, this year's honoree. Mr. Walsh, former VNSHS board president and retired attorney from Greenlawn, was honored for his outstanding service to the community, Rotary and the Hospice House. He had a vision for an inpatient hospice program at VNSHS, and eventually saw the Hospice House rise to fruition. Mr. Walsh's unrelenting commitment to hospice was acknowledged with glowing praise by Assemblyman Andrew Raia, and Northport Mayor George Doll happily presented proclamations to Mr. Walsh for his extraordinary service.

To quote Linda Taylor, CEO of VNSHS, who recapped the evening best, "This year's Soiree was the best ever – an atmosphere of fun for all and celebration for our honoree Jay Walsh. It was especially meaningful because of Jay's role in building the Hospice House that opened in 2004, for it honored him as well and raised funds to support this valuable resource in our community."



Linda Taylor, Chief Executive Officer with 'A Winter Soiree' honoree Jay Walsh

Doing Some Spring Cleaning?



A few of the special ladies that help run the Community Thrift Shop in Huntington. Pictured left to right are Joan Erlagen, Cissy Moffatt, Marge Bamman, Anne Gillcrist and Jean Rogers.

Wondering what to do with those clothes that don't fit anymore or those toys the kids don't play with anymore? What about those books you've already read and are still holding on to? Here's an idea...donate them to the Community Thrift Shop in Huntington. Located at 274 New York Avenue, just north of Main Street, the thrift shop is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM and accepts donations everyday until 3:00 PM. So stop by and browse through the wonderful selection of clothes, jewelry, books and other treasures at remarkable prices. Remember when you donate, please designate Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk as the beneficiary of your gift.

Help Us Continue to Build Carve Your Loved Ones Name in Stone... Buy a brick today and help us pave the way.

The Hospice House Memorial Garden provides a unique memorial for loved ones and friends. Bricks and pavers are available for purchase.

Each reserved brick or paver will be engraved according to the donor's wishes.

Three options are available:

To reserve your commemorative brick or paver, please cut and complete the following:

Walkway Bricks
\$100 each

4" X 8" in size
14 characters per line including spaces;
up to 3 lines per brick.

Walkway Pavers
\$250 each

8" X 8" in size
14 characters per line including spaces;
6 lines per paver.

**Walkway Granite
Pavers** \$500 each

Deluxe granite material
8" X 8" in size
14 characters per line including spaces;
6 lines per paver.

Hospice House Memorial Garden Brick/Paver Reservation Form

Please mail completed form to:
Visiting Nurse Service
& Hospice of Suffolk
505 Main Street
Northport, NY 11768

Donor Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

I wish to purchase _____ walkway brick(s) at \$100 each. \$ _____

I wish to purchase _____ walkway paver(s) at \$250 each. \$ _____

I wish to purchase _____ walkway granite paver(s) at \$500 each. \$ _____

(Engraving instructions will be requested from you at a later date.)

TOTAL \$ _____

I enclose a check made payable to Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk.

I wish to charge my credit card # _____

Exp. Date ____/20____ (VISA/MasterCard) Only

Signature _____

My gift(s) above are made in tribute to a loved one or special friend.

In memory of In honor of

Send Notification to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

In memory of In honor of

Send Notification to:

Name: _____

Address: _____

DID YOU KNOW...

DID YOU KNOW that you can make a donation to VNSHS directly from your IRA that will benefit VNSHS and can benefit you too?

If you have an IRA and are over 70½ you already know that you have to draw down from it, and take required minimum distributions. Since the contributions you made to the IRA originally were not taxed at the time they were made, distributions from it are added to your taxable income when taken. Under the provision of the law, which is scheduled to expire at the end of this year, you can still choose to make a charitable donation directly from your IRA to VNSHS, and the donation will count against your required minimum distribution without adding to your adjusted gross income. Consult your tax advisor to see how your charitable donation to VNSHS can help us both!

VNSHS Welcomes New Members to the Board

VNSHS would like to introduce its newest Board of Trustee members, all of whom are exemplary pillars in our local community.

John Lynch

Recently retired from the Northport-East Northport School District as the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services, John J. Lynch's dedicated career in education spanned four decades. He began working as a teacher and then became a school counselor, ultimately becoming an administrator. John's passion for working in the school district, as well as residing in the area for over 35 years, has inspired him to continue serving in this new capacity as board member. John is married to Lisa Maldari, an elementary school teacher, and is the proud father of three sons and two daughters.

Mike Hrichak

Mike Hrichak is owner of Home Instead Senior Care, a fast growing companion care agency, in Melville. An innovative thinker with broad based experience in operations, finance and marketing, Mike brings depth, along with a diverse background to VNSHS. He has worked in the telecommunications industry for over 15 years and the healthcare arena for nearly 10 years. In addition, he is a three-time President's Club Award winner at industry-leading companies, including Sprint and Motorola. His interests include reading, investing, and traveling.

Mary Beth Denniston

For over 20 years, Mary Beth Denniston, a licensed clinical social worker, was a psychotherapist with the Pederson-Krag Center, and more recently as a mental health supervisor with the agency. Mary Beth is also a private practitioner in Northport, working with individuals, couples, families and children. She was inspired to become involved with VNSHS when a family member received hospice care. Mary Beth lives in Northport Village with her family.

John A. Jurik

In John's 40 years of ordained ministry, he has served in St. Louis, Whittier, CA, Cardiff, Wales (UK), Boston, and Long Island. John has worked tirelessly advocating for affordable housing in Huntington. In the church community, he was pastor of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Huntington Station for 27 years and now serves as interim pastor assisting various congregations. He is married to Erika and has three grown children who live around the globe, as well as four grandchildren. Grateful for the care both his mother and mother-in-law received at VNSHS, Pastor Jurik is eager to serve on the Board.

Michael L. McCarthy

Born and raised in Huntington, Michael L. McCarthy graduated St. John's University School of Law in 1986, and has been a practicing attorney ever since. He began his career in the Suffolk County Attorney's office and then served for 5 years as Assistant Town Attorney in Huntington. In August 1988, Michael started his own law firm in Huntington Village, where he concentrates on general municipal law, land use development and real estate law. Michael resides in Greenlawn with his wife Kimberly, and their three children, Emily, Paige, and Owen.

Stuart Besen

Mr. Besen is a former Huntington Town Councilman and co-founder and former President of the East Northport Chamber of Commerce, he currently serves on their Board of Directors. Mr. Besen has established roots in the community graduating from Northport High School in 1982 and since 1993 has been a partner in the law firm, Besen and Trop, LLP. He has a long history in both working with and supporting not for profit corporations that service the community.

Our thanks go to all of these esteemed professionals who have elected to devote their time and talent to the successes of Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk. We look forward to their support!



John Lynch



Mike Hrichak



Mary Beth Denniston



John A. Jurik



Michael L. McCarthy



Stuart Besen

Meet Hospice House Health Aide – Verona Chang

It was a cool, crisp autumn day, November 10, 2004, when Verona Chang began her career as a health aide at the Hospice House. It also happened to be the second day Hospice House officially opened its doors, and she has been there since.

Verona has a natural affinity for working with hospice patients, but just how she eventually found her true vocation working for VNSHS took her a long way from her native born island of Jamaica.

With not a penny to her name, she came to the United States in 1992 on the recommendation from her church in Jamaica, to work for a family as their nanny. The position provided her not only with a job, but a home as well, so that she might be able to establish herself.

The job lasted just under two years due to a family move, and Verona was set to return to Jamaica when she landed another opportunity working as a nanny for someone who worked at a local Hospice. It was then that Verona learned more about hospice, and was encouraged by her employer to think about training to become a home health aide. She felt a desire to work with the elderly, and surprised herself at this revelation, not having done that work before and having only been in this country a short time. Verona was not sure how she could do it, but was determined to try.

She worked full-time during the day, and went to school at night to explore what drew her to this specialized field, and was hired in 1994 as a home health aide. She stayed with her first job for 6 years, meeting many people along the way. She then went on to work at an assisted living facility and skilled nursing home.

In 2004, a friend and hospice employee felt Verona would be perfect for a job at VNSHS, and subsequently introduced her to our agency. She worked at first as a home health aide, and was the first person to apply for a position at the Hospice House.

When asked on the interview why she would like to be a health aide at the Hospice House, Verona responded, “I receive more from this type of work than just a salary, and as a result, I value it that much more. It is a higher calling, and I feel privileged to work and care for hospice patients.” Verona explains that the stories and the people she has met on her sojourn at hospice are amazing and have added tremendously to the quality of her life.

From that 1st day at Hospice House, Verona loved the work. She went from working one day per week to eventually taking on a full-time position. Verona has worked hard to build a life for herself here on Long Island, and has along the way saved enough to purchase her own house, as well as supported her family back in Jamaica. She leads a productive and fully independent life including remaining very involved in her church. She brings exceptional care to all of her patients, and believes that is possible because she cares about each and every individual as she would her own family.

Verona believes that if you do your job whole-heartedly, and just keep doing your best, you can't help but fall in love with the work. “Working here at Hospice House... it gives me a new height of gratefulness every day.”



We Did It Again!

VNSHS Named 2010 Top 500 HomeCare Elite

Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk recently announced that, for the fifth consecutive year, it has been named one of the top 500 home health agencies in the country, according to the 2010 HomeCare Elite™. Now in its fifth year, the HomeCare Elite identifies the top 25 percent of home health agencies in the United States and further highlights the top 100 and top 500 agencies overall. Winners are ranked by an analysis of performance measures in quality outcomes, quality improvement and financial performance.

Linda Taylor, Chief Executive Officer at Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk credits the combination of competent and dedicated employees, superior clinical oversight, and a strong management team with the company's ability to rank as one of the top 500 HomeCare Elite. Ms. Taylor said "I'm extremely proud of Visiting Nurse Service & Hospice of Suffolk's accomplishment which recognizes our ongoing commitment to excellence.

High Fashion and Fun on the VNSHS Runway

On a lovely afternoon in December, VNSHS held its annual Holiday Fashion Show to a sold-out crowd at Nocello's Restaurant in Northport. Irving Brower and Josephine Creamer once again graciously donated the use of their restaurant and served a delicious lunch as their generous contribution to the day's event. In addition to the fashions provided by The Community Thrift Shop of Huntington, lunch, dessert, and coffee were served. Door prizes and an exciting Chinese auction took place as well.

All of the models volunteered their time and talent for the day's event. Honorary Board member Cissy Moffatt introduced the models as they took to the runway, describing each ensemble down to the minute detail. Stunning outfits from business attire to eveningwear were featured as well as vintage jewelry and accessories, including shoes and outerwear. There was something for everyone, from teens' and women's clothing to men's fashions in the latest styles. One gentleman was ready for Yankee Stadium clad in a day at the ball game outfit complete with team cap. Stylishly decked out for a Sunday brunch was Vance Viverito, VNSHS employee and former model, wearing corduroy slacks, sweater, and leather jacket. Vance smoothly strode through the restaurant dressed in fine attire resembling someone right out of Gentlemen's Quarterly. A special thank you to Orpheus Hair Designers of Cold Spring Harbor for generously donating hair and make-up services to all our models, along with a raffle basket full of beauty products.

A terrific fundraiser for VNSHS, the fashion show proceeds benefit the Hospice House. The Community Thrift Shop of Huntington, located at 274 New York Avenue in Huntington Village, offers goods, including designer names for the entire family at a fraction of the cost of department store prices. All items donated to the thrift shop under the VNSHS name are another way you can support the Hospice House.

The event ended with a fun-filled raffle drawing, where beautifully adorned baskets and terrific prizes were handed out to the lucky winners!



Jackie Roslak, owner of Holistic Skincare in Northport, models an elegant fox trimmed, black suede coat.



Assemblyman Andrew Raia honors Josephine Creamer, co-owner of Nocello's Restaurant for their outstanding community service.