



Visiting  
Nurse and  
Community  
Health

Home Health Care ■ Hospice Care ■ Private Care



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Media contact: Karen Breehey**

Visiting Nurse and Community Health, Inc.  
781-643-6090, ext.1204

[KBreehey@TheVisitingNurses.com](mailto:KBreehey@TheVisitingNurses.com)

## Visiting Nurse and Community Health Receives Symmes Fund Grant

**ARLINGTON, MA – August 18, 2011** – Visiting Nurse and Community Health, Inc. (VNCH) has been awarded a \$23,500 grant from the Symmes Medical Use Nonprofit Corporation. This grant will support of the expansion of VNCH's Telehealth Program, which monitors the home healthcare agency's Congestive Heart Failure (CHF), Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), and medically fragile patients, significantly decreasing ER visits and hospitalizations.

According to Christine Dixon, VNCH's Chief Executive Officer, "We at Visiting Nurse and Community Health are most grateful to the Symmes Medical Use Nonprofit Corporation's Board of Directors for recognizing the importance our Telehealth Program has on the well-being of our chronic care patients. The Symmes board's positive response to our request for grant funding is invaluable to us. As a non-profit agency, we rely heavily on the financial support, such as proceeds from grants, to help us further our mission of providing our patients with the highest quality home health care and state-of-the-art medical technology available today."

VNCH's CHF Program uses telehealth as a clinical tool to help with the goal of avoiding hospitalizations and emergency room visits through remote monitoring of homebound patients' blood pressure, heart rate, weight, oxygen level, and temperature. Each telehealth patient is monitored 7 days a week by a VNCH registered nurse, who works in partnership with a primary care physician. The patient's primary care nurse is responsible for his/her cardiac assessment, medication teaching, and any other healthcare needs he/she may have. Additionally, VNCH's telehealth nurse performs a daily review of all information obtained from monitored patients. Any fluctuations result in a phone call to the patient to check on his/her status, and a follow-up call to the patient's primary care nurse and/or physician, as indicated by the situation.

VNCH's hospitalization rate ranks among the lowest in the nation due, in part, to its CHF Program, which uses telehealth monitoring. For more information about our Telehealth Program and other specialty programs that promote the health and well-being of our patients, please call us at 781-643-6090. Also, to review the health outcome statistics for VNCH and other home health agencies, please visit [www.medicare.gov/HomeHealthCompare](http://www.medicare.gov/HomeHealthCompare).

### **About VNCH**

For over 110 years, VNCH, a 501(c)(3) non-profit, has had a deep rooted tradition of providing quality care to patients in their homes. Awarded for its quality ranking in the top 25% of home care providers nationally, VNCH is committed to using modern, state-of-the art medical technology to help achieve its goals.

VNCH serves the following communities: Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Burlington, Cambridge, Carlisle, Chelsea, Concord, Everett, Lexington, Lincoln, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Newton, Revere, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wayland, Weston, Wilmington, Winchester, and Woburn.

– more –

[37 Broadway, Suite 2](http://37Broadway.Suite2)  
[Arlington, MA 02474-5552](http://Arlington.MA.02474-5552)  
[781-643-6090 \(p\)](tel:781-643-6090)  
[781-643-7395 \(f\)](tel:781-643-7395)  
[www.TheVisitingNurses.com](http://www.TheVisitingNurses.com)

***About the Symmes Medical Use Nonprofit Corporation***

The Symmes Medical Use Nonprofit Corporation was established after the voluntary dissolution of Symmes Health Services, Inc., which was that non-profit corporation that had operated the Symmes Hospital in Arlington. Arlington's subsequent share of the funds from this dissolution was approximately \$1,000,000. Members of the corporation's Board of Directors are Chairman Charles Lyons, former member of the Arlington Board of Selectmen; Michael Foley, M.D.; and former Town Counsel John F. Maher. The board solicits proposals for grants from non-profit organizations that provide health-related services to the residents of Greater Arlington. Grants awarded by the corporation are made in consultation with Arlington's Board of Selectmen and Town Manager.

**###**