

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Press contact:

Karen Breehey
Visiting Nurse and Community Health, Inc.
781-643-6090 X1204
KBreehey@TheVisitingNurses.com

VNCH Hospice Care Program Marks 1st Anniversary

ARLINGTON, MA – May 21, 2010 – Visiting Nurse and Community Health (VNCH) Hospice Care will proudly mark its first anniversary on May 28. Twelve months ago, VNCH extended its long-standing reputation for treating its patients with the highest quality home health care, to include its Hospice Care program, which delivers compassionate, comprehensive services to patients with advanced, life-threatening illnesses, and their families. VNCH Hospice Care's team of dedicated nurses, doctors, social workers, inter-faith chaplains, volunteers, Rehab therapists, and home health aides all work together to help patients suffering from advanced illness to maintain their dignity while receiving care that promotes comfort and support. VNCH Hospice Care also provides support for the patient's caregivers. It is this "circle of care" approach that can ease the stresses of end-of-life care for the hospice patient's caregivers, as well as the patient.

One of VNCH Hospice Care's first patients had exhausted her hospice insurance benefits. She was told by her insurer that any further treatment would have to be administered in the hospital and not at home via hospice, which was her preference. After reading her story in the Boston Globe, VNCH Hospice Care reached out to this woman and her doctor, and was able to provide end-of-life services to her and her family without regard for reimbursement for services.

According to Christine Dixon, VNCH's Chief Executive Officer, "Being able to make a truly significant difference for our end-of-life patients and their families at a time when they need us the most has been extremely gratifying for all of us involved with the Hospice Care program. It underscores our 112-year commitment to caring for people in the comfort of their homes, regardless of their ability to pay for our services."

VNCH Hospice care has logged a number of milestones since it began:

- Provided care and comfort to 60 patients and their families from 15 different communities. The families will continue to receive bereavement support for 13 months after the patient's passing.
- Trained more than 20 Hospice Care volunteers
- Provided direct support and respite care for patients/families via our volunteers
- Recently added a music program, and will be adding an aroma therapy program soon
- Leads community-based Bereavement Groups, and hosted an annual Memorial Service that is open to anyone in the community who has experienced a loss of any kind.
- Arranged live choir music at patient's home as well as "last wish" trips out-of-state

VNCH Hospice Care serves the following communities: Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Billerica, Burlington, Cambridge, Carlisle, Concord, Everett, Lexington, Lincoln, Malden, Medford, Melrose, Somerville, Stoneham, Wakefield, Waltham, Watertown, Wilmington, Winchester, and Woburn.

###

[37 Broadway](#)
[Arlington, MA 02474](#)
[781-643-6090 \(p\)](#)
[781-643-7395 \(f\)](#)