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A N N U A L R E P O R T



**VNA  Foundation**  
The Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago

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*Executive Director*

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## M I S S I O N

From 1890 to 1995, VNA employed its own nurses and other health professionals to provide health care to the underprivileged.

Now VNA operates exclusively as a grantmaking foundation, giving financial support to nonprofit organizations offering home- and community-based care to the underserved.

Our methods have changed, but our mission has not: To support home- and community-based healthcare for the medically underserved in the Chicago metropolitan area.

# FIVE YEARS

## LISTENING, LEARNING AND GROWING



Katherine H. Miller  
Chair of the Board

*“We have learned an enormous amount about grantmaking, about our nonprofit agency partners and about the populations we seek to serve.”*

### *A Message from the Chair of the Board*

Fiscal Year 2001, the period covered in this annual report, marks our fifth year as a grantmaking organization. On behalf of the VNA Foundation Board of Directors and staff I am delighted to report that, over the last five years, we have awarded \$7,678,394 to 109 different nonprofit agencies serving the medically underserved in the Chicagoland area. I am equally happy to report that in the last five years we have learned an enormous amount about grantmaking, about our nonprofit agency partners and about the populations we seek to serve, and that we continue to build on that knowledge and experience.

We learn first by listening. We heard many nonprofit agencies talk about the difficulty of obtaining grants for general operating and capital needs. Both these purposes lack the ready allure of “creative new program ideas” that many foundations seek to fund. We realize if these needs are not funded, however, proven programs wither and day-to-day needs go unmet. So, we are proud to include a variety of general operating and capital gifts in our grantmaking.

We also learn by measuring the impact of our grants. Every grant approved by the Foundation has measurable outcomes, quantitative and qualitative measures developed in conjunction with grantees in advance of funding. We believe that requiring measurable outcomes allows us to maximize the impact of our limited grant dollars, while also allowing us to share with other applicants what works and what may not. We often learn as much from our failures as our successes, and if we take no risks we make no progress.

Lastly, we learn by collaborating with partners both at peer foundations and at nonprofit agencies. We meet several times a year with other healthcare funders in Chicago to exchange ideas, pose questions and learn from each others’ experiences. Additionally, each Fall, we invite several of our grantees to meet with us over lunch to share their programmatic successes and challenges, and give us feedback on any aspect of our grantmaking program. These methods have proven invaluable as we seek to continually grow as grantmakers. Our goal is to provide the most efficient and meaningful financial assistance to those in need of community-based health services.

I look forward with enthusiasm and anticipation to our next five years.





Robert N. DiLeonardi  
Executive Director

*“We hope our web site will be a rich resource for grantseekers, foundation personnel and anyone interested in the work of the VNA Foundation.”*

### *A Message from the Executive Director*

Since our first year of grantmaking five years ago, our annual report has been the primary vehicle by which we communicate with the public. Within these pages we’ve celebrated our successes and acknowledged our failures, and what we learned from each. We’ve documented our past and forecast our future. And we’ve tried our best to communicate the breadth and depth of our commitment to supporting home- and community-based health services for the medically underserved.

We believe that, by and large, these communication efforts have been successful. We’ve gotten positive feedback from potential grantseekers, those at peer foundations and even a reporter or two. And we were delighted when our 1999 annual report was chosen by the Council on Foundations, a national organization of grantmaking foundations, to receive the Wilmer Shields Rich Gold Award, the Council’s highest award recognizing creative and effective communications by foundations.

As good as our experiences with annual reports have been, however, we were not fully satisfied with our communication efforts. There still seemed to be two important components missing from the process: timeliness and interaction. Many times we had information we wished we could share with the community sooner rather than later—some great successes at our school-based health centers, a “lesson learned” by an innovative home visiting program, an important update on our proposal submission deadlines. And by its very nature, a once-per-year document does little to encourage ongoing dialogue with our target audience.

It is for these reasons that we have recently established a home page on the world wide web. We hope this site will prove to be a rich resource for grantseekers, foundation personnel and anyone interested in the work of the VNA Foundation and those we seek to assist. On the site you will find a detailed list of all our grants to-date, a “top ten” list of tips for successful home visits and other original content, and a plethora of links to additional sites of interest.

We will continue to publish an annual report, but through our web site we hope to provide more: more information, more responsiveness and more timeliness. The site will be updated at least once per quarter, allowing us to share information four times per year instead of just one. And the site will be checked frequently for questions, comments and feedback, allowing us to respond to you more quickly than might otherwise be possible.

Please visit us at <http://www.vnafoundation.net> to see what we’ve done, and let us know what you think. The site is there for your benefit. With your feedback, we hope to make it a most useful resource, and a way for us to provide more than just grant dollars to those we seek to assist.



## ON-SITE SUCCESS STORIES

What do the health clinics at a homeless shelter, an elementary school, and an agency serving the chronically mentally ill have in common?

Although their patients may be very different, the underlying health needs of those patients are remarkably similar: they all need direct care, as well as health education and prevention services, and careful follow-up, in order for a health-related intervention to have successful and sustained impact.

In fiscal year 2001, the VNA Foundation funded six school-based health centers, six homeless shelter clinics, and an innovative program providing integrated primary and mental health care services to persons with severe and persistent mental illness. Our outcome measure data as well as anecdotal evidence tell us that these grants—and previous grants like them—are among the most successful of our investments.

Besides similarities in health needs, there is another important parallel among these programs, and we believe it is this factor which plays a key role in their success: in each case, health care services are provided on-site in a familiar setting with which clients are already comfortable and client-provider trust already established.

Even the best models of health service delivery to the medically underserved fail if they are not able to achieve ready and sustained acceptance by the populations they seek to serve. In our experience, by providing services at a grassroots level via trusted community-based entities already in place, programs can achieve high impact, even on a modest budget.

## GETTING BY WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM THEIR FRIENDS

Many older adults face the risk of premature entrance into nursing homes and other institutional settings because isolation and inactivity conspire to compromise their independence. With a little assistance, however, many can achieve their goal of remaining in their own homes as long as possible.

White Crane Wellness Center brings health promotion, disease prevention and holistic health intervention services into Chicago Housing Authority buildings serving low-income elderly; Bethel New Life offers an adult day service program to impoverished senior citizens on Chicago's south side; Council for Jewish Elderly offers strength training to help keep older adults limber and mobile. And Family Alliance sends nurses into the homes of those struggling with dementia.

VNA grants to these and other agencies helped seniors maximize their health and retain their independence.



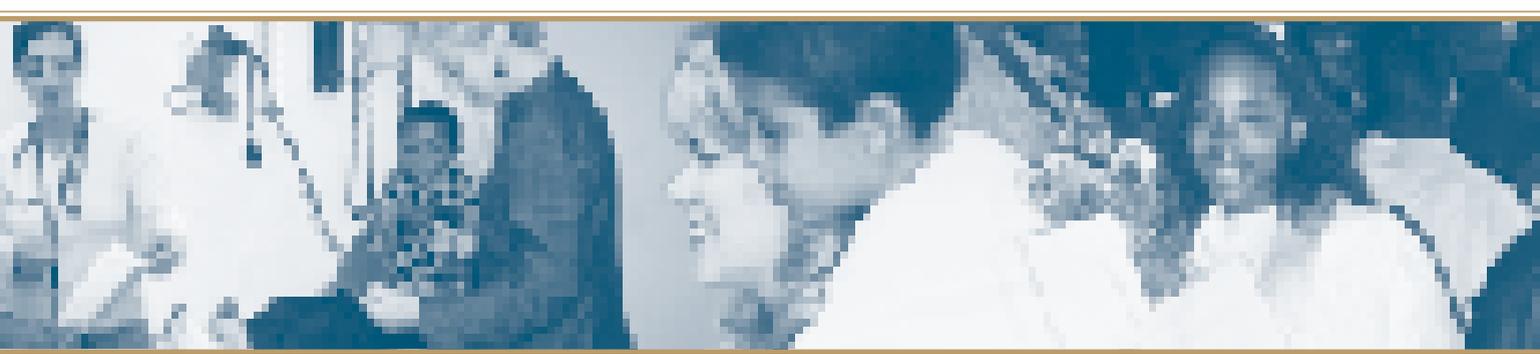
# BRINGING HEALTHCARE TO WHERE IT'S NEEDED MOST

Over a century after its founding, VNA's work continues to be driven by the same principle: that health services to the disenfranchised are often most effective when delivered in their own homes and communities.

For this reason we are pleased to fund medical clinics like Family Christian Health Center in Harvey, Family Health Society in Chicago Heights and the Family Health Partnership in McHenry. Each of these organizations combines the efforts of small paid staffs with those of a larger pool of volunteer doctors and nurses to provide no- or low-cost, high quality, comprehensive health services to the uninsured.

In addition, we are pleased to support a number of home visiting programs (six this fiscal year) which send nurses and other health professionals into the homes of those most in need, whether they are teen parents, infirm elderly or families with multiple health issues.

Without access to these services, the medically underserved are forced to wait until health problems become health crises, at which point they often visit hospital emergency rooms—a practice both less effective and more expensive than community-based care.



# FISCAL YEAR 2001 GRANTS

<p><b>AIDS Pastoral Care Network</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$25,000</b></span> To train clergy and lay people to provide HIV prevention and assistance services.</p>	<p><b>Council for Jewish Elderly</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$60,200</b></span> To implement a strength training program in three assisted living facilities for seniors.</p>
<p><b>American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$26,885</b></span> To provide flu and pneumococcal immunizations to the medically underserved.</p>	<p><b>Donors Forum of Chicago</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$2,874</b></span> For general operating support.</p>
<p><b>Association of Small Foundations</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$10,000</b></span> In support of information and referral resources for grantmaking foundations nationwide.</p>	<p><b>Dr. William M. Scholl College of Podiatric Medicine</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$20,000</b></span> For educational programs for nurses on foot care for the homeless and medically underserved.</p>
<p><b>Aunt Martha's Youth Service Center</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$34,453</b></span> For salary support of nurses providing health services to medically underserved children ages birth to three.</p>	<p><b>Family Alliance</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$44,600</b></span> For nurses to assist those caring for a family member with dementia at home.</p>
<p><b>Bethel New Life</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$64,000</b></span> For a nurse to provide home visiting and adult day care services to frail, low-income older adults.</p>	<p><b>Family Christian Health Center</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$30,000</b></span> Toward the salary of a Nurse Educator at this clinic for the medically underserved in Harvey.</p>
<p><b>Carole Robertson Center for Learning</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$35,000</b></span> Toward the salary of a nurse to provide health services to low-income, at-risk families on Chicago's west side.</p>	<p><b>Family Health Partnership Clinic</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$66,490</b></span> For salary support of a Nurse Manager and Nurse Practitioners at this clinic for the underserved in McHenry County.</p>
<p><b>The Center for Enriched Living</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$20,000</b></span> For a parenting program for parents with developmental disabilities.</p>	<p><b>Fox Valley Older Adult Services</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$30,000</b></span> To provide nurse services in its adult day care program.</p>
<p><b>The Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$20,000</b></span> To train Doulas (labor coaches and pregnancy resources for expectant mothers) to serve at-risk women.</p>	<p><b>Friend Family Health Center</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$28,500</b></span> To pay the salary of a Doula to work with at-risk teen mothers on Chicago's south side.</p>
<p><b>Chicago Christian Industrial League</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$48,000</b></span> To provide health services to homeless men, women and children who reside in its transitional living program.</p>	<p><b>Gethsemane Wholistic Public Health Practice</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$70,000</b></span> For the design and implementation of a new community-based nutrition education program.</p>
<p><b>Chicago Communities in Schools</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$50,000</b></span> To coordinate with schools and service providers to facilitate the delivery of free health services in Chicago public schools.</p>	<p><b>Health and Medicine Policy Research Group</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$28,500</b></span> To fund five Albert Schweitzer Nursing fellows to work in clinics in medically underserved areas.</p>
<p><b>Chicago Women's Health Center</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$26,180</b></span> To provide visits by Doulas and counselors to at-risk and low-income postpartum women.</p>	<p><b>HealthReach</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$34,455</b></span> To upgrade and expand the diabetes management program at this free clinic for the impoverished in Lake County.</p>
<p><b>Circle Family Care</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$60,000</b></span> To provide home assessments, health education and follow-up for low-income patients with asthma or diabetes.</p>	<p><b>Heartland Alliance for Human Needs &amp; Human Rights</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$58,755</b></span> To provide prenatal and neonatal care to homeless women and their children.</p>
<p><b>Connections for the Homeless</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$60,000</b></span> In support of staff salaries, medical equipment and supplies at this shelter for homeless adults.</p>	<p><b>Horizon Hospice</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$30,000</b></span> For hospice care for patients unable to pay for their care.</p>
<p><b>Cook County Bureau of Health Services Ambulatory and Community Health Network</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$45,313</b></span> For the outreach component of its school-based health center at Beethoven Elementary School.</p>	<p><b>Hospice Foundation of Northeastern Illinois</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$35,000</b></span> To provide hospice care for indigent cancer patients.</p>
	<p><b>Infant Welfare Clinic</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>\$25,541</b></span> Toward the salaries of a dentist and administrative personnel at a dental clinic serving the working poor.</p>

<b>Lake Forest Hospital</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>Teen Living Programs</b>	<b>\$47,270</b>
In support of its mobile "Care Coach" program of health services for medically underserved residents of Lake County.		To hire an NP to provide health services to homeless and runaway youth.	
<b>Lakeview Shelter</b>	<b>\$46,500</b>	<b>Thresholds</b>	<b>\$61,481</b>
To fund a .75 FTE nurse position to provide health services at this shelter for the homeless.		To provide integrated primary and mental health care services to persons with severe and persistent mental illness.	
<b>Lester and Rosalie Anixter Center</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>University of Chicago Department of Pediatrics</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
For capital needs at a new group home for children with severe cognitive, physical and sensory disabilities.		Toward home visits and health care for children and pregnant women with HIV.	
<b>Misericordia</b>	<b>\$24,817</b>	<b>University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Nursing</b>	<b>\$39,567</b>
To purchase comfort devices and medical equipment for persons with severe disabilities.		Toward the salary of a Nurse Practitioner at a school-based health center on Chicago's west side.	
<b>Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>Wells Community Academy High School</b>	<b>\$30,800</b>
Toward additional nursing staff at this mobile asthma management program.		To provide health services, education and referrals to pregnant and parenting teens.	
<b>The Night Ministry</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>West Side Mentally Retarded Children's Aid/Austin Special</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>
Toward an RN Health Services Coordinator to work in its specially-equipped mobile clinic serving disenfranchised youth.		To hire a nurse to work at this agency providing work and residential programs for the developmentally disabled.	
<b>North Shore Senior Center</b>	<b>\$16,800</b>	<b>Westside Health Authority</b>	<b>\$72,000</b>
To provide health promotion and education services to low-income senior citizens.		For its program to reduce cardiovascular disease among men in Chicago's Austin community.	
<b>PCC Community Wellness Center</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>White Crane Wellness Center</b>	<b>\$24,580</b>
For an outreach and home-visiting program for high risk mothers and their children.		In support of its health and wellness outreach initiative for at-risk immigrant and refugee elderly.	
<b>Rush Hospice Partners</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>	<b>Youth Guidance</b>	<b>\$11,321</b>
For hospice care, education and outreach activities for medically indigent persons.		For a Parent Outreach Coordinator position at its school-based health services program on Chicago's west side.	
<b>Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>		
In support of nursing services at Interfaith House, which provides respite programs for ill and injured homeless persons.			
<b>Rush-Presbyterian-St. Luke's Medical Center</b>	<b>\$42,168</b>		
To pay the salaries of nursing and outreach personnel at its clinic at Pilsen Homeless Services.			
<b>St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>		
For continued support of its pediatric primary care clinic, and for a new outreach and follow-up program.			
<b>Suburban Primary Health Care Council</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>		
In support of its program allowing the uninsured to receive care from local primary care physicians at minimal charge.			
<b>Swedish Covenant Hospital</b>	<b>\$40,100</b>		
Toward the salary of a Nurse Practitioner at its school-based health center at Roosevelt High School.			

**Total: 52 grants \$2,020,150**



VISIT US AT [www.vnafoundation.net](http://www.vnafoundation.net)

# STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

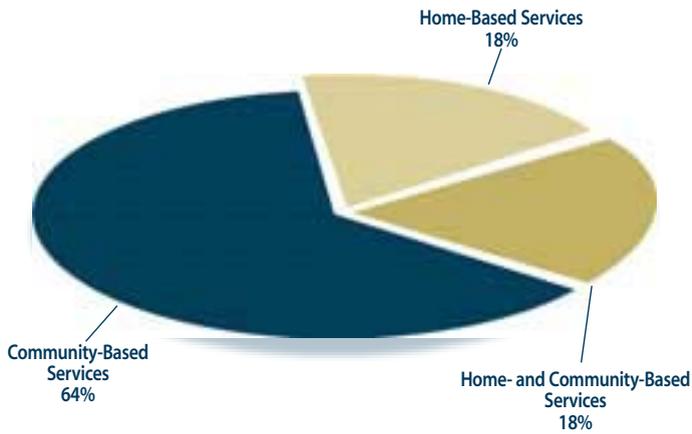
	JUNE 30, 2001	JUNE 30, 2000
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Investments	42,784,629	39,850,424
Cash	43,963	102,101
Other	<u>82,279</u>	<u>10,222</u>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b><u>42,910,871</u></b>	<b><u>39,962,747</u></b>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; FUND BALANCE</b>		
Accounts Payable	1,418	70,023
Fund Balance	<u>42,909,453</u>	<u>39,892,724</u>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Fund Balance</b>	<b><u>42,910,871</u></b>	<b><u>39,962,747</u></b>

## REVENUES AND EXPENSES

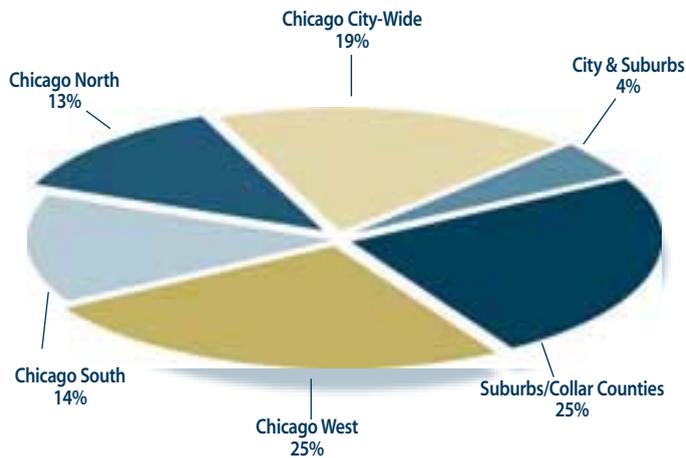
<b>REVENUES</b>		
Investment Gains	4,614,545	2,176,367
Investment Income	1,022,114	1,035,698
Contributions Income	233,164	61,381
Other Income (Loss)	<u>348</u>	<u>(74,126)</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>5,870,171</b>	<b>3,199,320</b>
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>		
General and Administrative	305,505	288,063
Investment Management Fees	<u>220,227</u>	<u>207,962</u>
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b><u>525,732</u></b>	<b><u>496,025</u></b>
<b>Excess of Revenues Before Other Items</b>	<b>5,344,439</b>	<b>2,703,295</b>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>		
Program Grants Paid	(2,020,150)	(1,959,239)
Program Related Investment	(250,000)	—
Projected Excise Tax	<u>(57,560)</u>	<u>(114,000)</u>
<b>Excess Revenues</b>	<b><u>3,016,729</u></b>	<b><u>630,056</u></b>

# FISCAL YEAR 2001 GRANTS

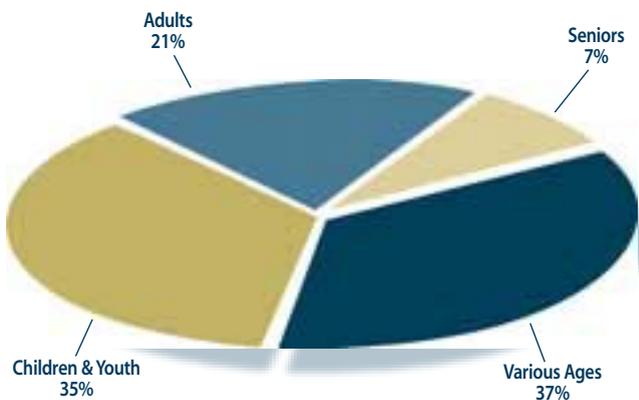
## By Program Area Served



## By Geographic Area Served



## By Population Served



# GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

The grantmaking goal of the VNA Foundation is to support home- and community-based health care and health services for the medically underserved in Cook and the collar counties, with a focus on Chicago.

I. To meet this goal, program, capital and general operating grants will be considered which are in support of but not limited to the following purposes:

- A. Home health care services
- B. Prevention and health promotion
- C. Early intervention

II. Priority will be given to programs in which care is provided by nurses

III. All grants must:

- A. Have measurable goals and objectives
- B. Be submitted by an organization exempt from income tax under sec. 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue code
- C. Benefit the medically underserved

# APPLICATION PROCEDURES

1. Review carefully the Guidelines for Grant Applicants listed above to determine your eligibility for consideration.
2. If you wish to apply, contact the VNA Foundation office or visit us on the web at [www.vnafoundation.net](http://www.vnafoundation.net) to learn current submission deadlines.
3. Send a letter of intent/executive summary of 2-3 pages which briefly describes the project or purpose for which you seek funding, including: the overall goal, the specific outcome measures demonstrating the impact of the grant (beyond just volume measures), a workplan of how the objectives are to be achieved, the identity of the key staff, the specific amount to be requested and the total time frame.
4. Based upon review of this letter, you will either be asked to submit a full proposal (including a completed Donors Forum of Chicago Common Application Form and budget narrative) or be advised to look elsewhere for funding.
5. Address the letter of intent to:

Robert N. DiLeonardi, Executive Director  
VNA Foundation  
20 North Wacker Drive, Suite 3118  
Chicago, IL 60606  
(312) 214-1521

# VNA Foundation

20 North Wacker Drive • Suite 3118 • Chicago, Illinois 60606

[www.vnafoundation.net](http://www.vnafoundation.net)