



2002 annual report

listening to the community

making a

difference





M i s s i o n

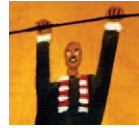


From 1890 to 1995, VNA employed its own nurses and other health professionals to provide healthcare to the underprivileged. Now VNA operates exclusively as a grantmaking foundation, giving financial support to nonprofit organizations offering home- and community-based care to the underserved. Our methods have changed, but our mission has not: To support home- and community-based healthcare for the medically underserved in the Chicago metropolitan area.



From the Chair

Katherine H. Miller
Chair, VNA Foundation Board of Directors



Past Successes and Future Challenges

Members of the Board of Directors of the VNA Foundation are very proud of our commitment to excellence. We have worked through the essentials of grantmaking in our short history as a foundation and have rapidly moved on to establish the elements of our collective vision. We take an active role in the oversight of our investments and we are personally involved in our grantmaking review. We have worked to create a culture of teamwork that we think makes a difference in our ultimate effectiveness. We believe that the VNA Foundation is an important voice in the Chicago area dialog about community-based solutions to healthcare delivery and a willing partner in the ever-present national debate about the role of foundations.

We encourage open communication with organizations around grantmaking issues. We schedule on-site visits to new grant applicants by a team that includes both a member of the VNA Foundation Board and a member of the staff, and we request mid-year and final reports from grantees that allow for ongoing dialog. We also try to help organizations to learn from the successes of others: we share examples of outcome

measures that are difficult to develop in certain delivery systems, we highlight successful proposals on our website and we often bring speakers together at our annual meeting to present solutions that have worked in their organizations. This allows key leaders to get to know each other and seek each other's advice in the future. We are pleased to share information that we share informally over the phone and more formally in our annual report, to increase the impact of our funding.

Rob DiLeonardi deserves a special thank you for developing and producing our annual reports each year and for most recently carrying out the request from the Board of Directors for a more user-friendly website. We are proud to accept from the Council on Foundations the following awards in recognition of his efforts: The Wilmer Shields Rich Gold Award for our 2000 annual report and The Wilmer Shields Rich Bronze Award for our 2002 website.

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c h a l l e n g e s

Members of the Board are committed to better understanding the complexities of effective funding. In an effort to support our field of endeavor, we endorse opportunities to learn and share “best practices.”

We voted to become a major sponsor of the annual meeting of the Council on Foundations when it was held in Chicago.

Our grant was given to show our support of this important organization and also to establish our interest in the national exchange of model programs. During the conference, we were selected to host a site visit showcasing the White Crane Senior Outreach Project that VNA Foundation grants helped to create and that the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has joined us in sustaining. The Board also decided to sponsor the national conference of the Association of Small Foundations in honor of Rob DiLeonardi who co-founded and helped lead that organization to its current status, and to Grantmakers in Health for the excellent collegiality and open forum that it offers.

Members of the Board of Directors represent a wide range of opinions and foster healthy debate on topics that surround access to community healthcare. We use our annual retreat for in-depth conversations and policy-setting strategies. Last year we created three special initiatives to address specific areas of concern. It was with a true sense of partnership that we granted \$125,000 to the Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition to increase KidCare enrollment. This grant allows underserved families better access to healthcare.

The second special initiative was designed to encourage nurses to consider community service by spotlighting the fine work of “unsung heroes” in the nursing profession. The VNA Foundation Super Star in Community Nursing Award was established with a \$25,000 award to be given annually to a nurse selected by an independent ad hoc committee. We hope that this award is significant enough to make a real difference in the life of our superstar and also attract local interest and generate more stories about the work of these special nurses.

The third initiative involves technology and was created to help non-profit health service providers to capitalize on technology. The first year of this initiative involves a partnership with Prince Charitable Trusts. Both Prince and VNA Foundation will grant funds for up to ten community-based health centers to improve their information technology and computer functions.

Working with our Executive Director, Rob DiLeonardi, is always a pleasure because he, too, strives for policies and procedures that will let us realize maximum results for our annual grant allocations. He carries the responsibility for the operations of the Foundation, helps to guide the dreams of the Board of Directors and maintains healthy and active partnerships with nonprofit organizations, fellow funders and key community contacts.

After two years as chairperson of the Board of Directors, I look forward to passing the leadership mantle to my fellow Director, Janet Cabot, and to continuing my role as a member of this dynamic group. It has been a privilege to serve in this capacity at this period in the VNA Foundation’s history. 📧



progress

partnership

challenge



From the Executive Director



Robert N. DiLeonardi
Executive Director



Mutual Interest: Grantmakers, Grantees and Partnership

If you are lucky, a handful of times in your career you come across a statement or thought that helps shape your outlook and perspective for the rest of your professional life. Fifteen years ago, I read a simple line of text in a document from The Grantsmanship Center (www.tgci.com) that has served that purpose for me: “Grantseekers are applicants, not supplicants.”

At VNA Foundation, that perspective has become our credo. To us, grantseekers are valued partners and co-planners. If there is a better example than grantmaking of a process where the whole is greater than the sum of its parts, I am not aware of it. It is true that without the financial backing a grantmaker provides, projects may not be developed and programs not sustained. Similarly, however, what is a foundation without its nonprofit partners to share their knowledge and vision? The answer is simple: It’s an unused ledger with check # 0001 yellowing with age.

We try to reflect in our grantmaking process this view of grantseekers as partners. For example, via our letter of intent

process, we ask applicants to commit to paper just the basic framework of a grant request. If the idea reflected in the letter seems a good fit with VNA funding priorities, or if after discussion we see the potential for a promising grant, only then will we ask for a full proposal and attachments. In this way, the initial commitment of resources—both theirs and ours—is minimized, while still allowing for a reasoned review of a proposal concept.

In addition, we attempt to strike a balance between proactive and reactive grantmaking. Although we do sometimes request proposals or initiate grants based on our knowledge of the health-related needs and developments within the communities we serve, often there is no replacement for the expertise of those on the “front lines.” Therefore, we welcome unsolicited inquiries and proposal ideas as well. We approve and disburse grants at least four times per year, which we hope allows us to be responsive to the sometimes pressing needs of the underserved populations served by our grantees.

A successful grant is of as much benefit to a foundation as it is to a grantee. For VNA, the special joy in our grantmaking comes from funding programs and projects which address well the needs of those who have been the focus of our mission for over 100 years: the men, women and children of Chicago who lack access to basic health services. We have been fortunate enough to be able to accomplish much in our first six years of grantmaking. With our partners’ help, we will continue to do so. 📧

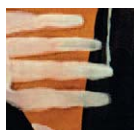
Success Stories:



Sharing what we've learned

VNA FOUNDATION HAS SEEN POSITIVE OUTCOMES from many of its grants and believes that sharing these experiences is of value to other funders and service providers. Here we share three examples of successful grants. Please check our web site, www.vnafoundation.net, for more.

School-Based Health Centers Make the Honor Roll



In the medically underserved neighborhoods in which VNA Foundation focuses its efforts, most families lack adequate health insurance. As a result, children frequently have poor immunization compliance rates and lack adequate access to healthcare and preventive health services.

For several years we have believed that School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) were promising vehicles to address these health shortfalls. Under the SBHC model, on-site nursing staff provide a variety of health information and education services, along with direct services like immunizations and sick care.

It was our hope that by forging partnerships between schools and communities,

the SBHCs could bring at-risk children into a more coordinated system of health services. We felt that SBHCs were well-positioned for maximum access to, and impact on, their target populations.

We are pleased to report that, at least in VNA Foundation experience, SBHCs work well. Over the last four years, SBHCs as a whole were the most consistently successful of our grants in meeting outcome measures and demonstrating positive impact. Notable reductions in ER visits by asthma patients, substantial increases in immunization rates and good attendance at health education and information events were achieved.

With an RN dedicated to basic coordination, oversight and follow-up duties at free clinics, client health outcomes improve.



The (Worthwhile) Extra Cost at a Free Clinic

VNA Foundation is pleased to support several free or low-cost medical clinics in and around Chicago. These clinics, staffed primarily by volunteer physicians, nurses and other healthcare providers, offer badly needed health services to the working poor and impoverished.

If the clinics are free and the providers are volunteers, why do the clinics need VNA funding? Time and again, VNA has been able to demonstrate the wonderful enhancement of care that is made possible through the addition of a paid, full-time RN clinical or case manager position at these clinics. Three such positions were funded in fiscal year 2002.

With an RN dedicated to basic coordination, oversight and follow-up duties at free clinics, client health outcomes improve. Absent such a position, even the most dedicated volunteer providers are not able to accomplish as much as they'd like, because patients are often lost to follow up care, appointments missed, and services duplicated.

The very purpose of clinics like these is to offer a better alternative than episodic, irregular, ER-type care.

The very purpose of clinics like these is to offer a better alternative than episodic, irregular, ER-type care. Our outcome data tells us that RN manager positions go a long way towards helping to fulfill that promise: referral appointments are more likely to be made and completed, test results tracked and health education goals achieved when the efforts of alternating volunteers are supplemented by the steady presence of a fulltime case manager.

Schweitzer Nursing Fellows: The Inspired and Inspiring

Four years ago VNA Foundation made its first grant in support of the Albert Schweitzer Nursing Fellows program. The fellows are post-baccalaureate nursing students who work in community-based clinics and service sites in medically underserved areas within the city of Chicago. Each year, up to 100 students apply for the approximately 30 fellowships. The program is offered and administered by Chicago's Health and Medicine Policy Research Group.

Schweitzer candidates write applications which include a description of the work they would like to do, the population to be assisted, and plans for their efforts or programs to be sustained at the clinics after completion of their fellowship. Each fellow is supervised and assisted by a faculty advisor from his/her school, student mentors (former fellows) and the Schweitzer Fellows Program Administrator.

It was VNA Foundation's hope that, besides bringing high-ideals, high-energy graduate students into community-based clinics that are often desperate for additional qualified help, the extra exposure to community-based care allowed by the program would encourage the students' further interest in community-based care as a career choice.



We are pleased to report that to-date several fellows supported by VNA funding have reported that the Schweitzer program allowed them to confirm their commitment to serving underserved populations as they advance in their careers, and at least four graduates are currently at work in clinics and programs in Chicago's neediest communities—one of the best outcome measures for which we could ever hope. 📧



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Grants



*If a grant will make a difference
to the medically underserved,
VNAF will consider it.*

FISCAL YEAR 2002 GRANTS

Beyond all the by-laws, mission statements and guidelines, all foundations really have the same simple goal:

TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

Unfortunately, that goal is easier to state than to achieve.

VNA Foundation strives to achieve it by asking that each of our grants have measurable outcomes, objective ways of assessing the impact of the programs we fund. We then analyze the impact—good, bad, or neither—of funded programs on an individual and collective basis.

We have been fortunate enough to experience many more successes than failures. Any outcome, however, is a valuable outcome, because we use the results of our outcome analysis to guide our grantmaking decisions, and, perhaps more importantly, to share with grantees and applicants engaged in similar work.

VNAF also seeks to make a difference by being willing to fund needs which are

important but decidedly unglamorous. We are proud to fund many highly innovative and exciting new programs and projects. We also recognize, however, the sometimes critical

need for the underwriting of more “everyday” needs. Paying for medication costs, general operating support or bus tokens is hardly, at first blush, the stuff of a foundation board’s dreams. We have seen too many clever programs fail due to the “for want of a nail” syndrome, however, to turn a deaf ear to requests richer in impact than sophistication. If a grant will make a difference to the medically underserved, VNAF will consider it.

The fiscal year 2002 grants list on the following pages describes a diverse assortment of grant purposes, populations and amounts. VNA funded community-based health programs, free clinics, home visiting nurses, homeless shelters and school-based health centers. Their common link? They each represent our best effort to make a difference in the lives of Chicago’s medically underserved. 📧

FISCAL YEAR 2002 GRANTS

American Lung Association of Metropolitan Chicago

\$27,000

To provide flu and pneumococcal immunizations to the medically underserved.

The ARK

\$57,000

To hire an RN to serve as the Clinical Manager at its free medical clinic.

Bethel New Life

\$64,000

To pay the salary of a nurse to provide home visits and assessments for frail, low-income older adults.

Carole Robertson Center for Learning

\$45,000

Toward the salary of a nurse to provide health services to low-income, at-risk families on Chicago's west side.

Centro San Bonifacio

\$20,000

For home-based prenatal, Doula and postpartum education for low-income Hispanic women.

Chicago Abused Women Coalition

\$35,000

To provide hospital-based services to victims of domestic violence, as well as train hospital staff on how best to identify, treat and refer abused women.

The Chicago Chapter National Black Nurses Association

\$30,000

To train Doulas (labor coaches and pregnancy resources for expectant mothers) to serve at-risk women.

Chicago Communities in Schools

\$60,000

To coordinate with schools and service providers to facilitate the delivery of free health services in Chicago public schools.

Chicago Youth Programs

\$15,000

Towards stipends for a nurse to assist in its free clinic and parenting education programs.

Circle Family Care

\$60,000

In support of a Home Visiting Nurse to provide home health services for low-income persons with asthma or diabetes.

Community Health

\$80,520

To provide case management and follow-up services for the patients at this free clinic for the underserved.

Community Renewal Society

\$15,000

To support an innovative violence prevention program for at-risk 12 - 21 year olds on Chicago's west side.

Community Support Services

\$40,135

For the salary of a nurse to provide health services and case management for the agency's developmentally disabled clients.

Connections for the Homeless

\$60,000

In support of staff salaries, medical equipment and supplies at the health program at this shelter for homeless adults.

Deborah's Place

\$10,000

To provide health services and referrals to homeless women.

Donors Forum of Chicago

\$13,294

For general operating support and towards 2002 Council on Foundations national conference in Chicago.

Family Alliance

\$61,990

For nurses to assist those caring for a family member with dementia.

Family Health Partnership Clinic

\$50,000

For salary support of a Nurse Manager and Nurse Practitioners at this clinic for the underserved in McHenry County.

Family Health Society

\$45,000

To renovate buildings and to equip and expand its medical and dental clinic for the working poor.

Family Network

\$20,000

Towards salary support of a Home Visitor/Health Educator to serve at-risk Hispanic families in Lake County.

Genesis House

\$30,000

For medical supplies for a mobile health center serving prostitutes and at-risk women.

Grantmakers in Health

\$3,000

Towards cost of Chicago-based seminar for health foundations.

Health and Medicine Policy Research Group

\$30,000

To fund six Albert Schweitzer Nursing Fellows to work in clinics in medically underserved areas.

HealthReach

\$25,807

For the diabetes management program at this free clinic in Lake County.

Henry Booth House

\$55,440

For the salary and benefits of a bilingual (Chinese and English) nurse at its health center for low-income families.

Housing Options for the Mentally Ill

\$43,312

For the annual salary of a nurse at its permanent residential facility for people with mental illnesses.

Illinois Maternal & Child Health Coalition

\$125,000

To enrolling children in the KidCare program, which provides low-income working families with health insurance for their children.

Interfaith Council for the Homeless

\$50,000

To support a Nurse Practitioner providing health-care for residents of homeless shelters.

Interfaith House

\$40,000

To provide operating support for its respite and transitional living programs for ill and injured homeless persons.

Juvenile Protective Association

\$50,000

For the salary of a clinical psychologist at this agency providing services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

Lake Forest Hospital

\$50,000

In support of its mobile "Care Coach" program of health services for medically underserved residents of Lake County.

Misericordia

\$22,560

To purchase comfort devices and medical equipment for persons with severe disabilities.

Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center

\$43,600

To assist in the provision of home healthcare for uninsured patients.

Northpointe Resources, Inc.

\$30,000

Towards the salary of an RN Supervisor of Medical Services at this agency serving the developmentally disabled.

PCC Community Wellness Center

\$72,734

For an outreach and home-visiting program for high risk mothers and their children in Chicago's Austin community.

Planned Parenthood Chicago Area

\$70,000

Toward the training and salaries of Nurse Practitioners and a Clinical Administrator.

Respite House

\$40,000

To fund nursing care for medically fragile children and respite for their parents and caregivers.

Rush Hospice Partners

\$50,500

For hospice care, education and outreach activities for medically indigent persons.

Super Star Nurse Award

\$25,000

Given by VNA Foundation to recognize an outstanding community/public health nurse.

Thresholds

\$65,213

To provide integrated primary and mental healthcare services to persons with severe and persistent mental illness.

Uhlich Children's Home

\$75,000

Toward nursing staff to assist foster parents with the care of their medically complex foster children.

University of Chicago Department of Pediatrics

\$50,000

Towards home visits and health-care for children and pregnant women with HIV.

University of Illinois at Chicago, College of Nursing

\$64,612

Towards the salaries of Nurse Practitioners at two school-based health centers on Chicago's west side.

Vietnamese Association of Illinois

\$35,000

To increase low income Asian and African immigrants' understanding of and access to primary health services.

Westside Health Authority

\$48,750

For the salary of a Nurse Practitioner in its program to prevent adverse health outcomes among at-risk families in the Austin neighborhood.

White Crane Wellness Center

\$27,134

In support of its health and wellness outreach initiative for at-risk immigrant and refugee elderly.

Youth Guidance

\$11,321

For a Social Worker position at its school-based health services program on Chicago's west side.

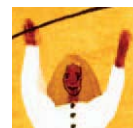
TOTAL OF 47 GRANTS

\$2,067,101





Super Star Nurse



VNA Foundation Ad Hoc Nursing Initiatives Committee Chair Julia Muennich Cowell, PhD, RNC, FAAN (right), hands Maria Porras, RN (left), her award check.

VNA AWARDS \$25,000 TO AN OUTSTANDING NURSE

In May 2002, VNAF awarded Maria Porras, RN, Healthy Start Project Coordinator at the Chicago Family Health Center in southeast Chicago, an unrestricted \$25,000 gift as the recipient of the Foundation's first Super Star in Community Nursing Award.

Numerous eligible applications were received for the award, from which six finalists were chosen. Each of the six finalists were then interviewed by a review panel of public and community health nursing experts.

The award was created to recognize and honor an exceptional nurse who has made a significant contribution to his or her community. In addition, the award seeks to acknowledge the service that Public Health/Community Health

Maria is known as an advocate

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nurses provide, recognize the value of nursing in the community at large—and by highlighting the accomplishments of these nurses and the vital and sustained impact they often have on their client's lives—encourage the consideration of public health and community health nursing as a career choice.

Ms. Porras was selected for her excellence in the areas of innovation and creativity, client advocacy and clinical care. In her 10 years at the Chicago Family Health Center, her efforts have resulted in the development of several new initiatives and outreach programs, as well as enhanced integration of existing services to better serve her clients.

Among her many recent accomplishments is the development and implementation of a breastfeeding peer counselor program. Her efforts on this initiative resulted in a 25% increase in breastfeeding rates and the program received an award from the Illinois Department of Human Services. Described by many as "always going the extra mile," Maria is known as an advocate for her clients who views her relationship with them as a long-term one. In 2001, Maria and her team of 17 staff members participated in 300 outreach and educational events involving more than 2,700 participants.

Maria and her husband applied the \$25,000 prize towards the purchase of their first new home. In 2003 we will select a second Super Star Nurse Award winner, and encourage all interested parties to investigate the nomination criteria. Please check our website, www.vnafoundation.net, in the coming months for more details. ☑

Statement of Financial Position



	JUNE 30, 2002	JUNE 30, 2001
ASSETS		
Investments	40,927,514	42,784,629
Cash	105,446	43,963
Other	272,766	342,819
Total Assets	41,305,726	43,171,411
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Accounts Payable		1,418
Fund Balance	41,305,726	43,169,993
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	1,305,726	43,171,411

REVENUES AND EXPENSES

REVENUES

Investment Gains (Loss)	(226,648)	4,614,545
Investment Income	991,634	1,022,114
Contributions Income	32,201	233,164
Other Income	-	348
Total Revenue	797,187	5,870,171

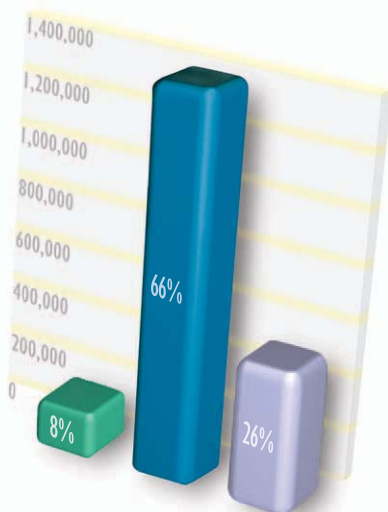
OPERATING EXPENSES

General and Administrative	327,779	305,505
Investment Management Fees	218,158	220,227
Total Operating Expenses	545,937	525,732
Excess of Revenues Before Other Items	251,250	5,344,439

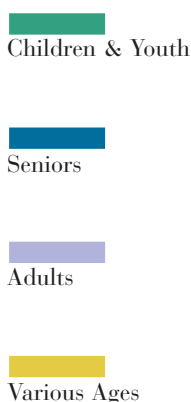
OTHER INCOME EXPENSES

Program Grants Paid	(2,067,101)	(2,020,150)
Program Related Investment	-	(250,000)
Projected Excise Tax	(48,415)	(103,271)
Excess Revenues (Expenses)	(1,864,266)	2,971,019

By Program Area



By Population Served



By Geographic Area



GUIDELINES FOR GRANT APPLICATIONS

THE GRANTMAKING GOAL OF THE VNA FOUNDATION IS to support home- and community-based healthcare 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 healthcare 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 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

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