

*2003 Annual Report*

VNA  Foundation



# MISSION

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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.

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# From The Chair

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Janet Cabot | Chair



*“I am very proud of the diverse group of grantees that we have supported.”*

## CHALLENGE AND COMMITMENT

Two words describe this past year: challenge and commitment. If you opened an investment statement yourself or just checked the headlines you understand instantly the nature of our challenge. The less-than-robust economy took its toll on the investment income that supports our grantmaking. Although we have weathered the storm better than many foundations in Chicago, the reality was unavoidable. In order to make grants at the same level we would have to use funds from the endowment itself.

Each year our board comes together to devote a day for in-depth conversation and planning. At this year's retreat our first, urgent topic of conversation was what to do about our lower investment income. As a board we were challenged to make a tough choice: to continue grantmaking at the same \$2 million level and potentially impact future generations of grantmakers or to cut back temporarily to be assured of fulfilling our mission in perpetuity. We chose the latter.

In the year ahead our total pool of grantmaking dollars will be less (approximately \$1.4 million). However, our commitment to the mission of the VNA remains steadfast. As you read the following pages you will understand the depth of this commitment.

On behalf of the entire Board I am very proud of the diverse group of grantees that we have supported. They have used our dollars to effectively create positive outcomes for those whose health needs might otherwise not be served.

As a board we reaffirmed our focus to support home and community based healthcare for the medically underserved in the Chicago Metropolitan area. We know that organizations throughout Chicagoland are counting on us to help them make a difference.

We are always up for a challenge. We hope in the coming years it will just be our usual challenge - choosing among the wealth of worthy programs to support.

# From The Executive Director

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Robert N. DiLeonardi | Executive Director

## OUR JOB REMAINS THE SAME

As referenced in the message from our Chair, the VNA Board of Directors recently made the difficult decision to reduce our grantmaking budget for fiscal year 2004. As a result, we will be making extremely tough choices about how best to share pieces of our small pie. Virtually all our peer foundations are facing the same dilemma, and there seem to be as many solutions as there are foundations: some are declining to accept proposals for new programs, others are automatically reducing each request by a set percentage, still others are accepting only a handful of invited proposals. At VNA, however, we have no set or single approach to implementing our newly limited budget. As always, we believe our applicants will be best served by individualized consideration.

And fortunately, we are already well-experienced with working within funding limitations: like other foundations with a passion for their work, we have always been richer in ideas than in dollars to fund them. Our limited capital has encouraged us to collaborate with other grantmakers as a way to stretch and leverage our dollars, and resulted in us looking harder at methods of maximizing the impact of existing resources rather than being tempted to create

new ones. For example, we partnered with The Prince Charitable Trusts and Washington Square Health Foundation to bring badly needed technology-related equipment, training and resources to several community-based health centers. Besides just dollars, each funding partner brought its particular experience and expertise to the collaboration, and the result was a whole that was decidedly better than the sum of its parts. And when the VNA board was looking for ways to increase health care access for the medically underserved, it opted to continue its investment in KidCare enrollment efforts rather than “reinvent the wheel” by beginning a new initiative.

I hope more than anyone that foundation endowments will improve, and that the economic trials faced by nonprofit agencies will abate. In the meantime, however, VNA will continue to find opportunity in challenge, and, with the valued assistance of our nonprofit and foundation partners, make the most creative use of our resources. Regardless of the vagaries of the economy or investment returns, our job remains the same: to assist the medically underserved through grantmaking that is as effective and beneficial as we know how to make it. We look forward to doing so, in good times and bad.

*“VNA will continue to find opportunity in challenge.”*

# 2003 Super Star in Community Nursing Award Winner

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Teresa Davis doesn't see herself as a super star at all. As the women's health nurse practitioner and clinical manager of Loyola University/Proviso East School-Based Health Center in Maywood, Illinois, she views herself as someone "just doing her job." But with more than 2,000 students seeking medical, mental health, dental and preventive health services at the center each year, Davis' job is a very important one. Each day, she supports Proviso East students by providing routine and preventive health care, supporting and counseling pregnant teens and their families, providing health education and referrals and promoting the importance of good nutrition and disease prevention – often before the first period bell rings.

Anyone who comes in contact with Teresa Davis at the health center will say that she is a true patient advocate – her enthusiasm, passion, dedication and perseverance to make a difference in the young lives of her patients clearly set her apart from others in her field. She has made it her job's mission to be a mentor, trusted confidante and positive role model for the youth of Proviso East and to offer them a safe environment to seek treatment. Davis was recognized for her exceptional professional contributions in public health nursing by being named the winner of the 2003 VNA Foundation Super Star in Community

Nursing Award and recipient of a \$25,000 unrestricted cash award.

The VNA Foundation's 2003 Super Star in Community Nursing Award is intended to acknowledge the service that Public Health/Community Health nurses provide, recognize the value of nursing in the community, help attract young people to the profession and contribute to efforts to decrease the nursing shortage. Numerous eligible applications were received for the award, from which six finalists were chosen. Each of the six finalists was then interviewed by a review panel of public and community health nursing experts.

This year's award nominees were truly of an exceptional caliber. After reviewing Teresa Davis' impressive credentials, meeting her in person and witnessing her enthusiasm and passion for public health nursing, however, it was evident to the review panel that she was most deserving of this recognition. Teresa was found to be an inspiring example to others who are considering a career in community nursing.

In 2004 we will select a third Super Star Nurse Award winner and encourage all interested parties to investigate the nomination criteria. Please check our website, [www.vnafoundation.net](http://www.vnafoundation.net), in the coming months for more details.

**2003 Finalists** | Five finalists from the Chicago area also received recognition and a \$1,000 cash award for their extraordinary efforts in the field of community health nursing.

**Hong Deng, RN**, Clinical Manager of the Henry Booth House Family Health Center in Chicago, was recognized for her care of underserved Asian populations; **Kathleen (Kathie) Nash, RN**, Executive Director of Rush Hospice Partners, was commended for her many years of commitment to hospice care; **Judy Scully, RN, Ph.D.**, Associate Professor, Loyola University, was recognized as an inspirational teacher in community nursing and for her leadership in the area of school-based health centers; **Carol Palmer Wardlaw, RN, MSN, APN**, Site Manager and Family Nurse Practitioner of the Huginnie Crane Adolescent Health Center located at Crane Technical Preparatory Common School in Chicago, was lauded for her exceptional care of students at Crane and her leadership within the Illinois Coalition for School Based Health Centers; **Betty White-Zappa, RN, MSN, Ph.D.**, Vice President, Patient Care Services of Erie Family Health Center in Chicago, was commended for her commitment to supporting community health nursing.



## How Do We Know If We Are Making A Difference?

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It's a question that has probably haunted foundation staff and boards since the first grantmaking foundations were formed. In these times of leaner resources and increasing need, this question has perhaps taken on even greater importance.

VNA believes that its grants can make a difference, and that difference can be demonstrated through measurable outcomes. Since its inception, VNA Foundation has required that each grant have measurable outcomes, some objective measure of the impact – good or bad – of the program or purpose funded by the grant. Sometimes, measurable outcomes are easy to establish; they are an integral aspect of the very purpose of the grant. In other instances, developing outcome measures requires a responsive dialogue between grantor and grantee. Regardless of how they are developed, however, outcome measures provide valuable information to both parties about the successes or challenges faced by a grant-funded program.

Although diverse in amount, target population and purpose, virtually all the grants on this list have measurable outcomes. They also share an even more important feature: they represent our very best effort to make a difference.

*Visit us at [www.vnafoundation.net](http://www.vnafoundation.net)*

# Grants

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<b>Alivio Medical Center</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>Council on Foundations</b>	<b>\$4,350</b>
For equipment and training to improve billing and record keeping systems.		General operating support for this organization serving philanthropic foundations.	
<b>The ARK</b>	<b>\$57,000</b>	<b>Crisis Center for South Suburbia</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
To hire an RN to serve as the Clinical Manager at its free clinic.		To provide training to hospital staff on how to identify, treat and effectively refer abused women.	
<b>Breakthrough Urban Ministries</b>	<b>\$52,000</b>	<b>Deborah's Place</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
To expand its healthcare services program for homeless women.		Toward the salary of a nurse to provide health services to homeless women.	
<b>Centro Comunitario Juan Diego</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>Erie Family Health Center</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
To provide community outreach and health education home visits.		To purchase computers and renovate a computer training room.	
<b>Centro San Bonifacio</b>	<b>\$20,000</b>	<b>Evanston Northwestern Healthcare</b>	<b>\$ 5,000</b>
For home-based prenatal, doula and post-partum education for low-income Hispanic women.		To provide CNAs for medically indigent home hospice patients living in isolation.	
<b>Chicago Abused Women Coalition</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	<b>Family Christian Health Center</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
To provide hospital-based services to victims of domestic violence, and to train hospital staff on how to identify, treat and refer abused women.		Towards construction of a new building at this free clinic in Harvey.	
<b>Chicago Health Connection</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>Family Health Society</b>	<b>\$45,000</b>
To provide breastfeeding information and support to African American and Hispanic women.		To equip expanded medical and dental clinics at this primary care center for the working poor.	
<b>Chicago Health Outreach</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>	<b>Family Network</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
To provide prenatal care for homeless, immigrant and refugee women.		For a Home Visitor to serve at-risk, primarily Spanish-speaking families in Southeast Lake County.	
<b>Children's Memorial Hospital</b>	<b>\$ 9,975</b>	<b>Free People's Clinic</b>	<b>\$40,000</b>
To train school nurses to provide care for technology dependent children.		Toward staff salaries and to purchase materials and supplies for a diabetes screening and education program.	
<b>Chinese American Service League</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>	<b>Goldie's Place</b>	<b>\$28,035</b>
In support of the Nurse Manager for its program of preventive health services for homebound senior citizens.		To expand a Dental Care Program and add two permanent dental operatories.	
<b>Christian Community Health Center</b>	<b>\$42,000</b>	<b>Greater DuPage MYM, Inc.</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
For additional Nurse Practitioner positions at this health care center for the medically underserved.		To provide Doula services to pregnant teens in DuPage County.	
<b>Community Health</b>	<b>\$71,588</b>	<b>Health and Medicine Policy Research Group</b>	<b>\$33,000</b>
To provide case management, referrals, and wellness/prevention services at this free clinic.		To fund six Albert Schweitzer Nursing fellows to work in clinics in medically underserved areas.	
<b>Community Support Services</b>	<b>\$37,923</b>	<b>HealthReach</b>	<b>\$36,003</b>
For a nurse to manage acute and chronic health problems for people with developmental disabilities.		For chronic disease management efforts at this free clinic in Lake County.	
<b>Connections for the Homeless</b>	<b>\$61,600</b>	<b>Helping Hands Health Center</b>	<b>\$65,000</b>
In support of a Nurse Practitioner position at this shelter for homeless adults.		For the salary of a Nurse Practitioner at this new free clinic in Chicago.	

<b>Hospice of Northeastern Illinois</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>PCC Community Wellness Center</b>	<b>\$72,734</b>
To provide specialized palliative and hospice care to children with life-threatening or terminal illnesses.		For an outreach and home visiting program for high risk women and their children.	
<b>Illinois Maternal &amp; Child Health Coalition</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>Residents for Effective Shelter Transition</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>
To train nurses at community hospitals to enroll eligible persons in KidCare, Medicaid and FamilyCare.		To support its REST Care Clinic program of health services for the homeless.	
<b>Infant Welfare Clinic</b>	<b>\$37,000</b>	<b>Respond Now</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>
To support a dental clinic to provide preventive and restorative dental care to low income children.		To provide vouchers for prescription medication to medically indigent people in the southern suburbs.	
<b>Interfaith Council for the Homeless</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>St. Bernard Hospital and Health Care Center</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
To support a Nurse Practitioner providing health care for residents of homeless shelters.		To support the community outreach nurse position at its pediatric urgent care clinic.	
<b>Interfaith House</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>Super Star Nurse Award</b>	<b>\$30,000</b>
To provide operating support for its respite and transitional living programs for ill and injured homeless persons.		To recognize an outstanding community/public health nurse and five award finalists.	
<b>Information Technology Resource Center</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>Swedish Covenant Hospital</b>	<b>\$54,400</b>
To enable selected VNA grantees to access ITRC's broad range of consulting, training and resource integration services.		To support its Health Center at Roosevelt High School.	
<b>Misericordia</b>	<b>\$32,500</b>	<b>Teen Living Programs</b>	<b>\$75,490</b>
To purchase medical equipment for this facility for children with severe disabilities.		Towards a comprehensive health program offering medical care, health education and psychiatric services to homeless youth.	
<b>Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>Tri City Health Partnership</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>
For asthma-related nursing, clinical and educational services.		To expand the operations of this free clinic in Kane county.	
<b>Mount Sinai Hospital Medical Center</b>	<b>\$41,112</b>	<b>University of Chicago</b>	<b>\$39,599</b>
To provide long-term home healthcare to patients with chronic medical needs.		To pay the salary and benefits of a Doula to work with at-risk teen mothers on Chicago's south side.	
<b>The Night Ministry</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>	<b>Visiting Nurse Association of Fox Valley</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
Toward a Community Health Program Coordinator for its Mobile Outreach and Health Ministry.		For clinic-based care for the uninsured, and for KidCare enrollment efforts.	
<b>Northeast District Health Council</b>	<b>\$44,466</b>	<b>Well Child Center</b>	<b>\$20,673</b>
To combine the resources of four agencies to provide comprehensive cancer prevention screening and education to underserved and immigrant elderly.		For a "traveling team" of nurses and a dentist to provide care for children at various sites in Cook and Kane counties.	
<b>Ounce of Prevention Fund</b>	<b>\$49,000</b>	<b>Wells Community Academy High School</b>	<b>\$30,850</b>
For a nurse to provide home visits and community-based services to children and their parents.		For a teen pregnancy support and referral program.	
<b>PCC Community Wellness Center</b>	<b>\$25,000</b>	<b>White Crane Wellness Center</b>	<b>\$29,791</b>
To purchase computer hardware, software, installation and training.		In support of its health and wellness outreach initiative for at-risk immigrant and refugee elderly.	

**TOTAL | 54 Grants - \$2,063,355**

## Success Stories: Sharing What We've Learned



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The 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](http://www.vnafoundation.net), for more.

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# Success Stories

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## 1 BRINGING THE CLINIC TO THE COMMUNITY

Over a century after its founding, VNA's work continues to be driven by the same precept: that health services for the disenfranchised are often most effective when delivered in their own homes and communities. For this reason we fund many home visiting programs, school- and community-based health centers and free medical clinics.

We are also pleased to report, however, that we have had significant success with another variant of community-based service: the mobile health care van. The Mobile C.A.R.E. Foundation asthma van brings on-site asthma diagnosis and treatment to the city's neediest children; the converted RV used by The Night Ministry provides health, counseling and referral services to the homeless and working poor who wander Chicago's nighttime streets; and the 40-foot long bus used by the Lake Forest Hospital Care Coach delivers comprehensive health services to twenty-two community-based settings in Lake County's most impoverished and underserved neighborhoods. In each case, vulnerable populations that would otherwise have no access to care now have it delivered to them at a time and place that is familiar and convenient.

At first blush, due to their itinerant nature mobile health programs may seem unlikely to provide sustained health improvements and measurable successes. Working in partnership with these mobile programs, however, VNA was able to adapt programs or develop outcomes to demonstrate high impact. Besides the provision of basic health care, health education and information are offered and referrals made and tracked. And perhaps most importantly, patients often make these mobile homes their medical homes, with impressive repeat visit and retention rates.

Although health services delivered in clinics and homes will always be the primary means of providing care to the underserved, it is gratifying to see the advancement of the mobile health van from an occasional "one-stop wonder" to a legitimate additional resource in the battle to provide basic health services to all within our borders.

## 2 IN THE HOUSE WHERE YOU LIVE: WHITE CRANE'S MODEL OF IN-HOME HEALTH SERVICES

In 1997, VNA provided start-up funding for a small program being launched by White Crane Wellness Center on Chicago's north side. Under the Health and Wellness Outreach Project, a nurse provided community-based disease prevention and health promotion services, screenings, assessments and referrals to the residents of five public housing facilities for low-income older adults. The primary goal of the program was to reduce the incidence of preventable exacerbation of chronic diseases among a population which, absent such outreach efforts, would not receive adequate prevention and early intervention services.

Six years later, VNA is proud to report that the seed planted that day in 1997 is now a towering oak. Last year the Outreach Program team, composed of community health nurses, a physician, Geriatric Psychiatrist, Nutritionist, and Fitness, Tai Chi, and Yoga instructors, served nearly 3,000 at-risk elderly from 13 ethnic groups across 20 low-income buildings and community centers, providing over 4,600 health screenings and hundreds of exercise classes, clinical breast exams and mammograms. And in supporting this program, VNA is now joined by several local foundations, as well as the largest health and health care philanthropy in the United States, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The program was chosen to be featured and site visited at the 2002 Council on Foundations National Conference and has received several national awards. We are delighted to see this simple idea flourish and help so many older adults improve the quality of their life through health and wellness services.



### 3 MAXIMIZATION OF EXISTING RESOURCES: JUMP-STARTING KIDCARE ENROLLMENT

KidCare and FamilyCare are government administered initiatives designed to provide low-income working families with health insurance. KidCare provides insurance for children, and FamilyCare, a recent extension of KidCare, covers parents and caretakers of children currently enrolled in KidCare.

These programs have tremendous potential to address some of the health needs of working poor families. For example, under KidCare, covered children can go to the provider of their choice who accepts Medicaid and receive primary health care as well as immunizations, vision and dental care. Full prenatal care is also covered. If families are not already linked with a provider, they may call a toll free hotline to get the names of providers and hospitals in their area.

Over the course of KidCare implementation, providers were recruited and coverage became increasingly available, yet the most important

component was not in place: the eligible children, many of whom remained unenrolled. Studies found that 7 out of 10 families eligible for KidCare did not know that they qualified, and many were unaware of the existence of the program. This presented a significant communications challenge to raise community awareness of the program, galvanize enrollment, publicize successes, and monitor the media to ensure that accurate information was reaching the public.

VNA provided funding to the Illinois Maternal and Child Health Coalition (IMCHC), the lead agency for the Covering Kids Illinois enrollment effort. IMCHC partnered with over 1,400 diverse coalition members across the state (schools, hospitals, clinics, libraries, churches, public aid offices, day care centers, social service agencies, etc.) to sign up all children eligible for the KidCare program. Happily, the results to date are impressive: over the past year an additional 19,730 children and pregnant women have been enrolled into KidCare, and as of December 1st, 2002, nearly 200,000 children and pregnant women throughout Illinois were enrolled in the program and accessing badly needed health services.

# Statement Of Financial Position

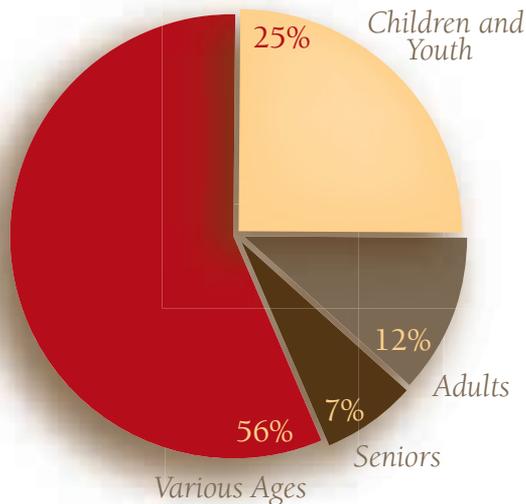
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	June 30, 2003	June 30, 2002
ASSETS		
Investments	\$ 39,167,493	40,927,514
Cash	52,116	105,446
Other	276,027	259,200
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 39,495,636</b>	<b>41,292,160</b>
LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE		
Accounts Payable	\$ —	34,767
Fund Balance	39,495,636	41,257,393
<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 39,495,636</b>	<b>41,292,160</b>

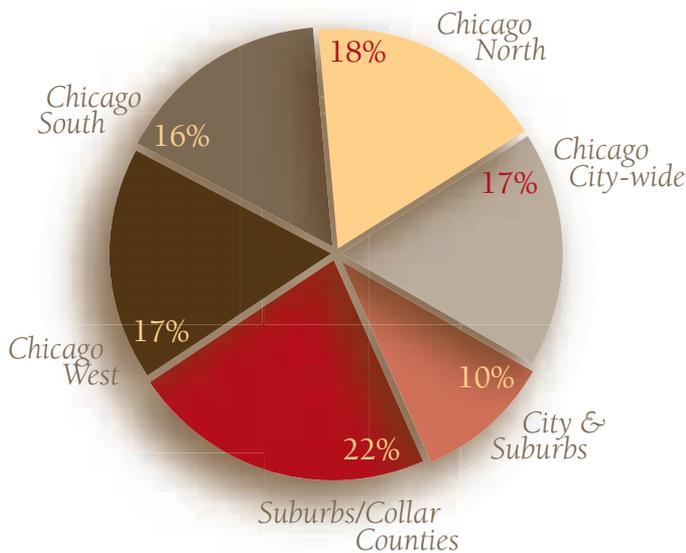
## REVENUES AND EXPENSES

REVENUES		
Investment Gains (Loss)	\$ (152,315)	(226,648)
Investment Income	994,680	991,634
Contributions Income	47,288	32,201
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 889,653</b>	<b>797,187</b>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
General and Administrative	\$ 393,765	328,013
Investment Management Fees	186,147	218,158
Total Operating Expenses	579,912	546,171
<b>Excess of Revenues Before Other Items</b>	<b>\$ 309,741</b>	<b>251,016</b>
OTHER INCOME EXPENSES		
Program Grants Paid	\$ (2,063,355)	(2,067,101)
Projected Excise Tax	(8,143)	(96,515)
<b>Excess Revenues (Expenses)</b>	<b>\$ (1,761,757)</b>	<b>(1,912,600)</b>

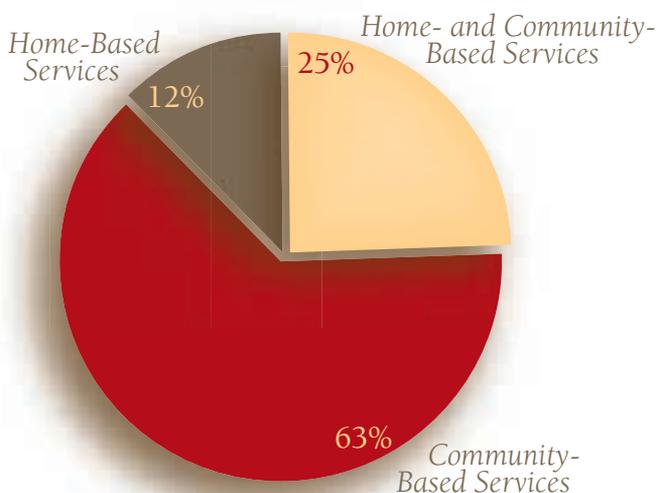
## GRANTS BY POPULATION SERVED



## GRANTS BY GEOGRAPHIC AREA



## GRANTS BY PROGRAM 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](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

# Progress

# Partnership

# Challenge

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