

# VNA Foundation

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## **NURSE-RUN MOBILE SERVICES TO HOMEBOUND RECEIVES RECOGNITION, CASH GRANT** *The Mobile Medical Care Program of Little Company of Mary Hospital was awarded the VNA Foundation Anne M. Davis Mobile Health Award for home visiting program for low-income neighbors*

**CHICAGO, Ill. – October 14, 2014 –**

The Mobile Medical Care Program at Little Company of Mary Hospital and Health Care Centers received a special award from Chicago's VNA Foundation for its outstanding work addressing the unmet health and social service needs of frail, weak, homebound individuals unable to travel to a physician's office. The Anne M. Davis Mobile Health Award, named in honor of a longstanding VNA volunteer and Board member, recognizes a Foundation grantee that *uses mobile health services in a particularly innovative, effective and/or impactful way.*

Begun 20 years ago, the Mobile Medical Care Program brings healthcare to the patient, where they can receive necessary services in the comfort and safety of their home surroundings. The program is managed by nurses, and utilizes a medical van to bring a nurse and physician team to the homebound. Direct medical care is provided by both members of the team, with the nurse also providing health education, social service assessment and referral services. The program helps its patients learn to control chronic illnesses, and prevent episodic, crisis-oriented use of emergency rooms. Over time, it also helps to avert preventable hospitalizations and nursing home placement for elderly and disabled people who wish to remain in their own homes. Some of the services offered can be partially paid by Medicaid and Medicare, but the program accepts patients regardless of their ability to pay for their care. Last year, the Mobile Medical Care Program made over 1,100 home visits and saw 244 unique patients.

“The Sisters of Little Company of Mary arrived in Chicago in 1893 but the hospital wasn’t built until 1930,” explained Ellen E. Meehan, RN, Manager Mobile Medical Services. “For the 37 years in between, the Sisters provided care to the sick and dying in their homes. Their history and mission of bringing health care out into the community parallels that of the VNA. These common threads that we share with one another makes this honor even more meaningful and special to us.”

The communities served by the program are truly that – communities -- and residents often have deep roots and multifamily, multigenerational ties. In fact, program staff can find themselves at the homes of neighbors or church members, reflecting the personal and individualized approach that defines the program and contributes to its longevity and success.

“One of Mrs. Davis’ particular interests was healthcare for the underserved as provided by mobile health units,” said Rob DiLeonardi, Executive Director of the VNA Foundation of Chicago. “She was always rightfully determined that VNA’s current work accurately reflect its heritage, and viewed the teams of

healthcare providers who deliver service on-site via their mobile health vans and buses as perhaps the closest link to the horse-drawn carriages and traveling nurses used by the original Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago. For this reason, it was the decision of the VNA board that the best way to honor Mrs. Davis's four decades of service was to create the Anne M. Davis Mobile Health Award, a grant to highlight and honor this particular method of healthcare delivery. There were many strong candidates to receive the Davis Award this year, but the Mobile Medical Care Program, which has for many years worked to address the health needs of underserved persons, was the unanimous choice for this distinction. “

### **About Mobile Medical Care Program at Little Company of Mary Hospital**

To learn more about the Little Company of Mary's Mobile Medical Care Program, please call 708.229.4663 or visit LCMH.org.

### **About the VNA Foundation**

VNA Foundation was founded in 1889 as the Visiting Nurse Association of Chicago, an organization that employed its own nurses and other health professionals to provide health care to the underprivileged. Among its founders was pioneering social activist and Nobel Prize winner Jane Addams.

Since 1995, however, the VNA Foundation has not provided direct nursing services. Instead, VNA has operated exclusively as a grantmaking foundation, giving financial support to nonprofit organizations offering home- and community-based care to the medically underserved. In FY 2014, the VNA Foundation awarded 57 grants amounting to more than \$2 million. Recipients of the grants include a variety of agencies providing healthcare and health services to the working poor, the homeless, and the disenfranchised. For more information on the VNA Foundation, please visit [www.vnafoundation.net](http://www.vnafoundation.net).

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### PHOTO CAPTIONS



### **The Mobile Medical Care Team at Little Company of Mary Hospital**

From Left to Right: Janet Klonowski, LPN; Dr. Fred Richardson, Little Company of Mary's Mobile Medical Care Director; Ellen Meehan, RN, Manager; Margaret Hassan, LPN; Jeanne Dougherty, Nurse Practitioner. At The VNA Foundation Luncheon, September 11, 2014 to receive the 2014 Anne M. Davis Mobile Health Award.