Visiting Nurse Service celebrated Home Care month by hosting a celebratory reception November 10th where we were proud to welcome two guests of honor, Congressman Tom Reed of Congressional District 23, and NYS Home Care Association Communications Director, Roger Noyes. During Congressman Reed’s visit, he signed a Congressional Proclamation declaring November to be National Home Care month, and also accompanied one of our RNs on a home visit with one of our long-term patients! VNS is very grateful to Congressman Reed and Mr. Noyes for both their attendance, and also for their continued support of home care.

Below on the left is the Congressional proclamation signed by Congressman Reed during his visit to the VNS office, and on the far right is a picture of the Tompkins County proclamation, signed during a November 17th meeting, declaring November 2015 as Home Care Month in Tompkins County.

Web users, click here for the full HCA article, and here for the full Lansing Star article!
November is National Home Care and Hospice Month and is the perfect time to introduce Visiting Nurse Service’s new mission statement:

**Health. Hope. Home.**

**It’s about you.**

Our new mission statement speaks to an agency that is changing to become more patient and family centered, more collaborative and working in partnership with the community.

- You will see this with our collaboration with Ithaca Housing Authority at Titus Towers. VNS is working in partnership with Titus Towers to ensure that residents stay healthy and age in community. We will be organizing and providing educational opportunities for the residents to prevent falls and to stay healthier. All residents will have nursing support and especially as they transition back home after a hospitalization.

- You will see us continuing our work with Cayuga Medical Center and Office for Aging in providing transition services for Medicaid patients for 30 days after they are discharged from the hospital. Services include teaching the patient and helping them to understand their medications, ensuring that they see their primary care physician, teaching them about their disease and how to be proactive in controlling their symptoms and helping them complete a personal medical history that includes questions they have for their physician. This support helps to prevent them from being readmitted.

- You will see this in our staff that are being trained in the Eden At Home philosophy. They are being empowered to keep the patient and the family at the center of their care. This training will assist VNS staff understand how to help our patients avoid loneliness and boredom and bring more meaning to their lives.

- You will see this in our work with Home Health Aides who are being trained in life skills. This work will be expanded through a grant with the Community Health Foundation of Western and Central New York to help support all Home Health Aides in the community.

- You will see this as we support the community efforts to become an AARP Age Friendly Community. VNS will support the domain that relates to community and health services. This includes an adequate range of health and community support services that are offered for promoting, maintaining and restoring health. Also home care services including health, personal care and housekeeping.

Please join me in celebrating National Home Care and Hospice Month and thanking all employees that provide care everyday to patients. I would also like to thank Congressman Tom Reed and Tompkins County Legislature Chair, Michael Lane for their proclamations recognizing the contribution that home care makes in Tompkins County. It is a privilege to serve the residents of our community and be a part of helping to make our community a better place to live.

*Sue Ellen Stuart, Executive Director, VNS*
VNS is proud to welcome more additions to our team:

~Mercedes Horak, Nursing Case Manager~
~Elizabeth Rehbein, Home Health Aide~
~Denise Telfer, Nursing Case Manager~

We are very fortunate to welcome all of our new employees!

We are always on the lookout for more hard-working, dedicated employees! If you are an RN looking for an exciting, fun place to work, please look on our webpage, www.vnsithaca.org and visit the Employment section, then call our office at 607-273-0466 and ask to speak with Judy Eckard, our Human Resources Manager.

Click here to sign up for our mailing list:
http://www.vnsithaca.org/contact.html

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