

Foundation Board of Directors

Chair

Kathleen R. Pierce

Vice Chairs

Sarah Connors

Emily Sherwood

Treasurer

Jeffrey J. Phillips

Assistant Treasurer

Kathleen LaCroix

Secretary

Carole Finck

Assistant Secretary

Stacy L. Kenyon

Immediate Past Chair

Carol Kanarek

Directors

Kathryn Barton

William J. Hudson

Ann Marie McCrystal, Founder

Michael McGee

Marta Schneider

William P. Stengel

William J. Stewart

President & CEO

Lundy S. Fields, MBA

Executive Director

Annabel Robertson

Brighter Days Ahead with the COVID-19 Vaccine



As we ushered in 2021, the COVID-19 vaccine was on the horizon. The vaccine rollout began in our community, and, per the state's directive, seniors age 65 years and older and health care workers who provide direct patient care were amongst the first to receive the vaccine. The development of the vaccine not only marks a historic moment for the medical community, but it provides our community hope that we are on the path of putting this pandemic behind us.

VNA has a long-standing tradition of caring for this community, and the COVID-19 vaccine continues to be an extension of this commitment. At the start of the vaccine rollout and beyond, VNA nurses teamed up with Cleveland Clinic Indian River Hospital to help vaccinate the public. Fulfilling the need to have more nurses available meant that

more members of the community could be vaccinated.

Bringing health care to our community's most vulnerable population is a cornerstone of VNA's mission. VNA will help by vaccinating homebound seniors who want the COVID-19 vaccine.

Even though the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine provides hope for a brighter future, VNA remains steadfast in upholding our policies so that we can deliver care to our patients in a safe and responsible manner. Our caregivers continue to adhere to infection control policies and utilize personal protection equipment when caring for our patients. As a health care leader in our community, the safety of our patients and staff will always be a primary focus for VNA.



1110 35th Lane
Vero Beach, FL 32960

772.567.5551
www.vnatc.org

Message from the Executive Director



Annabel Robertson

As spring is upon us, I am grateful for the brighter days ahead. The past year has been difficult, but through the dedication of our

nurses, caregivers, staff and you, the VNA & Hospice Foundation has been able to remain steadfast in its commitment to our patients and our community.

Through your support, our Community Health team is working to bring vaccines to vulnerable homebound patients and our nurses have provided much needed support for vaccine clinics throughout the county. VNA is working hard to ensure a safe and bright tomorrow.

This season of new hope also brings wonderful changes at our hospice house. The completion of our renovation project will ensure that patients and families will have a sanctuary in difficult times. Preserving the legacy and securing a future for this special place.

As we move forward into brighter times, I want to thank each of you for your support of the VNA & Hospice Foundation. It is your commitment to maintaining health care excellence in our community that makes our work possible.

Thank you,



Annabel Robertson

Hospice House Renovations Update



In 2019, a committee of volunteers and a group of VNA associates gathered to discuss and conceptualize the VNA Hospice House renovations. Two years later, The Hill Group, with the assistance of a committee of VNA associates, has completed the first of two phases. The VNA Hospice House West Wing is now serving patients and families.

How patients and families feel when they enter the Hospice House has always been purposeful and meaningful. When originally constructed and designed, the Hospice House's aesthetic was centered around making patients and families feel comfortable and at home. These upgrades ensure that future patients and families will continue to feel at peace when in the house.

The upgrades that have taken place include renovating all the rooms in the West Wing. From the floor to the ceiling, every room has a new look, even the bathroom sinks and fixtures have been

updated. Each patient room has its own air conditioning unit so patients and their loved ones can adjust the temperature to their liking. The bedroom furniture, including chair lifts and beds, have been replaced, and each private patio boasts new furniture. The VNA Hospice House has brand new technology and upgraded lighting.

Phase II, the East Wing renovation, has begun. The renovation includes expanding the parking lot to include 25 more parking spots to accommodate families and visitors.

Bret Sundblad, Vice President of Non-Clinical Operations, summed up the efforts with a word of appreciation, "Thank you to The Hill Group and our VNA team who've been a part of this project. How wonderful it is to work with individuals who understand the mission of VNA's Hospice House and the impact it has on our community."

VNA Receives 5-Star Rating for Patient Satisfaction



FIVE STAR RATING

The VNA Melbourne home health division has been awarded a 5-Star Rating for patient satisfaction by Medicare. This rating, for home health agencies, is based on patient survey responses tabulated from the following criteria: patient care, communication between providers and patients, specific care issues, overall rating of care and willingness to recommend the agency to friends and family. Star Ratings make it easier for consumers to compare quality among Medicare certified home health care agencies.

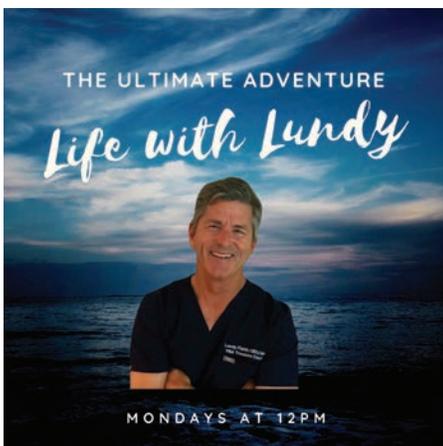
“At VNA we are committed to our patient first philosophy. Everything we do begins and ends with our patients, caregivers and their families. We couldn’t be more thankful for the privilege of serving our

community,” said Ann Culley, Executive Director for VNA’s Melbourne office.

This is an outstanding achievement for VNA. Medicare certified home health agencies must have at least 40 completed patient surveys over a consecutive four-quarter period which means VNA’s patients have all reported the highest standard of excellence on behalf of the company.

It’s the unyielding commitment to providing the highest quality care which promotes VNA’s growth and reputation as an industry leader, VNA has expanded services to care for patients in Brevard County. However, money raised within Indian River County remains local and supports patient care programs and initiatives within the county.

VNA & Hospice Foundation Presents, *Life with Lundy*



In an on-going effort to promote the good work at VNA, the VNA & Hospice Foundation has launched a new social media adventure, *Life with Lundy*. With engaging weekly topics of discussion, it will “air” via Facebook live every Monday at noon. To tune in, go to [facebook.com/vnahospicefoundation](https://www.facebook.com/vnahospicefoundation). Follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@vnahospicefoundation) for fun, engaging posts!

Marion Oechsner Award Recipient Celebrates 10 Years of Service



Michelle Deschane

The VNA & Hospice Foundation is proud to recognize Michelle Deschane for being awarded the Marion Oechsner Award at the annual board

meeting in January. This award is given to a VNA staff member who exemplifies the dedication, caring and resourcefulness essential to our mission. It is named in honor of Marion Oechsner, who was a founding board member of the VNA in 1974 and served as our second board chair. The award is based on a recipient’s having many of Mrs. Oechsner’s attributes such as devotion to cause, singleness of purpose, dedication, a common-sense approach, loyalty and most of all, a caring heart. Michelle is very deserving of this honor.

In addition to this outstanding achievement, in February of this year, Michelle received her 10-year Service Award for VNA. She’s held different jobs in her tenure including Information Specialist and Recruiter at VNA before transferring to the Foundation in 2013. She has held various positions within the VNA & Hospice Foundation including Donor Relations Coordinator and Manager, before being promoted to Foundation Operations Manager in 2020. Her dedication to the VNA has been both inspirational and pivotal in meeting our mission at the Foundation. Michelle runs both the Annual Appeal and Golf-A-Thon. Her commitment to mission and dedication ensure VNA & Hospice Foundation can continue to serve the needs of the VNA.

31st Annual Golf-A-Thon Teeing off May 3rd

The 31st Annual Golf-A-Thon will be held at Bent Pine Golf Club on Monday, May 3rd. Funds raised will be used to support patients who have no financial resources to receive the health care services they require to maintain quality of life. Though the event itself will take place in its full form, a few changes have been made to the schedule this year. Due to COVID-19 and the need to ensure everyone's safety, volunteers will not attend the event and the cocktail reception has been cancelled.

This event would not be possible without the commitment of the volunteers and committee members and the leadership of event co-chairs Catherine Reichert and Mo Reilly. Team captains and committee members, creating a fun spirit of competition, encourage their respective clubs to support their golf pros who participate in the event. Because of their dedication to making this event a success, VNA & Hospice Foundation can uphold its promise to provide charity home health and hospice care for all.

The 2021 club captains include: Louise Schmitt and Stephanie Walworth from Bent Pine Golf Club, Linda Baran and

Theresa Kelso from Grand Harbor Club, Linda Braun and Nancy McCormick from Indian River Club, Pam MacMannis and Liz McKeever from John's Island Club, Sandy Cirone and Barbara Gervais from The Moorings Club, Susan Daniels and Carolyn Evers from Oak Harbor Golf Club, Gerry Collins, Judy Gibbons and Dora Sullivan from Orchid Island Golf Club, Weasy Carmack from Pointe West Country Club, Gail Boynton and Barbara Morgan from Quail Valley Golf Club, Marge Collins and Susie Sumner from Riomar Country Club, Judy Burley and Jennie Hadsell from Sandridge Golf Club, Marilyn Case and Karen Formont from Vero Beach Country Club, Janet Gerry and Valerie Kratky from Windsor Club. The VNA & Hospice Foundation Board Liaison is Carole Finck.

The VNA & Hospice Foundation, board members and staff are grateful for the golf pros who play endless rounds of golf from sunrise to sunset.

Thank you to the golf pros who have partnered with us: Troy Pare from Grand Harbor Club, Bob Gruber from The Moorings Club, David Champagne from Orchid Island Golf Club, Matthew Challenor

from Windsor Club, Drew DiSesa from Riomar Country Club, Pat Gorman from Bent Pine Golf Club, Randy Hedgecock from Vero Beach Country Club, Bela Nagy from Sandridge Golf Club, Ian Killen from Indian River Club, Steve Hudson from John's Island Club, Don Meadows from Quail Valley Golf Club, Frank Mentzer from Oak Harbor Golf Club and Ryan Zug from Pointe West Country Club.

VNA is the only non-profit home care and hospice provider in Indian River County. For more than 45 years, our community has trusted VNA nurses, therapists, home health aides and staff to care for them in their homes. Whether it's home health care for patients who have suffered an injury, have a chronic illness, have had surgery, or a patient is in need for hospice care, patients receive services in the comfort of their homes. When a hospice patient's symptoms can no longer be managed at home, families can turn to VNA Hospice House for their loved one for compassionate end-of-life care.

To support your favorite golf pro, please visit www.vnadc.org/golfathon. For more information, please call 772.978.5568.

2021 GOLF-A-THON GOLF PRO PARTICIPANTS



Matthew Challenor
Windsor Club



David Champagne
Orchid Island Golf Club



Drew DiSesa
Riomar Country Club



Troy Pare
Grand Harbor Club



Pat Gorman
Bent Pine Golf Club



Bob Gruber
The Moorings Club



Randy Hedgecock
Vero Beach Country Club



Steve Hudson
John's Island Club



Ian Killen
Indian River Club



Don Meadows
Quail Valley Golf Club



Frank Mentzer
Oak Harbor Golf Club



Bela Nagy
Sandridge Golf Club



Ryan Zug
Pointe West Country Club

Project Wish is a Hospice Program Changing Lives

Project Wish is a hospice program dedicated to the end-of-life journey by asking patients one question, “If you could do just one thing, what would it be?”

Once a patient has an answer, Sara Bumgarner, VNA Volunteer Manager, and the Project Wish team reach out far and wide to fulfill a patient's last wish.

Wishes are as unique as the patients. Some have had a simple request like an ice cream social or a Christmas party, others have had more unique requests like hearing from a favorite celebrity or having the opportunity to pet a sloth.

Not only is this program for hospice patients, but also, for their families. Families can be a part of the last wish experience without having the burden of worrying how that wish will be granted.

Sara can't express enough appreciation to those who make this program possible. For those with a hospice heart who understand the importance of the end-of-life journey, she remarked,

“We're so thankful for the in-kind donations and businesses who have responded to Project Wish. Never knowing a need until a “wish” is made, it's the small businesses and individuals joining the program's growing network that help make wishes come true.”

Now, in its third year, Project Wish continues to bring joy and hope into the lives of patients, caregivers, families and our community.

A Day of Pampering

Joan Glad, a hospice volunteer, was a source of encouragement and strength to all who knew her. She took great care to dress well. While homebound, she could not get out to her favorite salon. When asked if she had a wish, she said she wanted to have her hair and nails done. With help from a few friends, a “beauty salon” came to her. Another hospice volunteer, who was also a beautician, colored and cut her hair at no charge. A manicurist did her nails in her favorite



Joan Glad and her partner Joe

color, red. When she looked in the mirror, she smiled and said, “I feel like a million bucks.”

Joan's story reminds us time is precious and moments matter. The Project Wish program is only made possible by the generosity of donors like you who support the VNA & Hospice Foundation.

A Metamorphosis at Camp Chrysalis

Camp Chrysalis, a bereavement camp for children 6 to 12 years old, continues to nurture young hearts stricken with grief. Normally held in person twice a year, in the spring and fall, it has been offered as a virtual event due to COVID-19. Free to children who are Indian River County residents, program outreach is community wide to ensure any child who has lost a loved one has the opportunity to attend camp. Because the in-person camp was not held, funds normally used to run the camp were still put to very good use. VNA counselors were provided with laptops furthering their ability to maintain personal relationships with families.

“We're constantly striving to find ways to make sure our children stay connected to each other and to counselors who can help them. Children need a safe place where they can work through their grief,” said Melissa King, Bereavement Counselor.

Integrating technology into the current programs has been very successful. In fact, there's a new program addition to grief support called Kid Connection. A four-month virtual program, Kid Connection engages children in positive activities as they experience and work their way through the stages of grief. Once we all can be together again,



Melissa envisions being able to provide both programs, Kid Connection and Camp Chrysalis, which will always serve children who have lost a loved one.

Bereavement Services Heal the Heart



After experiencing a sudden and severe decline in a progressive illness, Victoria went to the emergency department. Jett, her 11-year old son, stayed home in the care of family friends.

Victoria had several tests and was admitted to the hospital that night, a Monday. By Wednesday, doctors approached her mother, Christina, to talk about hospice. It happened that fast. Christina spoke through tears, “I wasn’t ready to think about any of it. I was forced to make choices I wasn’t ready to make: [either] subject Victoria to the pain of dialysis at least daily and know she’d have no quality of life or choose to

stop medical treatment and admit her to VNA Hospice House where she would be made comfortable.” By Wednesday afternoon, after conversations with the doctor, nurses and family, Christina chose to admit Victoria to VNA Hospice House.

Christina had to face the reality that she would lose her only daughter. Victoria had to do the unthinkable, she had to tell her young son that his mother was going to die.

Christina sobbed, “I just couldn’t let her go and I knew I’d have to, but I wasn’t ready.” Victoria passed away that Thursday, surrounded by her family, with VNA right there by their side.

“We met Becky, a bereavement counselor,” Christina recalled. “She was there for us. She talked to me, let me cry, let me be angry and she just listened. She let me know what I was feeling was normal. I never would have made it through without her. She let me know that anytime Jett needed someone to talk to, that we could call.”

Christina and Jett both benefitted from the many bereavement services offered by VNA. They met with a bereavement counselor weekly at first, then every two weeks and eventually scheduled monthly check-ins, knowing that at any time they could meet more frequently if needed. In addition to counseling, Jett attended Camp Chrysalis twice. The camp is a public service for Indian River County children ages 6 to 12 years old. It’s for those who have experienced a significant loss, to help them better understand and cope with their emotions.

Family support and bereavement is an extension of hospice care. The bereavement team supports family members as they experience the difficulty of losing a loved one.

With Aromatherapy Every Scent Matters for Hospice Patients

VNA has a new addition to its non-clinical therapies, Aromatherapy. Long-time VNA hospice nurse and certified Aromatherapist, Austine McCarthy, RN will be providing services for hospice patients at their private residences, the VNA Hospice House, assisted living communities and skilled nursing facilities, or wherever patients are receiving hospice care.

Aromatherapy is a wholistic approach focused on physical, emotional and

spiritual needs using research backed, non-pharmacologic interventions. Aromatherapy is proven to ease symptoms of pain, anxiety, insomnia and grief. Depending on need, a patient’s plan of care can include aromatherapy as it compliments the care patients receive from other hospice team disciplines.

With education being an important aspect of the program, continuing education and in-services are planned for VNA caregivers.



The program was launched in late 2020 and was made possible through the generosity of donors.

Ways to Give to VNA

Thank you to our donors who generously give to the VNA & Hospice Foundation to ensure that everyone will have access to compassionate care when they need it most.



Annual Giving - Contributing to the annual fund supports non-reimbursed programming and charitable patient care ensuring that everyone receives the care they need and deserve.



Memorials/Honorariums These contributions are a meaningful way to celebrate those who are living or to memorialize a loved one.



Tribute Plaque - Messages of commemoration are etched into granite plaques, which are displayed at A Place For Remembering in the VNA Hospice House landscape. These donations support the hospice house endowment.



Honor a Caregiver The Grateful Patient and Family Program allows you to celebrate VNA caregivers who provided care and comfort during a difficult time.



Golf-A-Thon - Support one of the many local golf pros who are committed to playing countless holes of golf from sun up to sun down at this annual fundraiser.



Hidden Treasures Thrift Stores - Proceeds support the VNA Hospice House and our mission of providing compassionate end-of-life care. Donations of gently used items also accepted.



Legacy Gifts - Secure your legacy and create a long-lasting impact in our community by including the VNA & Hospice Foundation in your will.



QCD - A qualified charitable distribution (QCD) allows people 70½ years of age to make a charitable gift directly from your IRA any time of year while avoiding paying taxes on the amount gifted.



Vehicle Donation Program Donate your unwanted cars, boats or motorcycles to benefit hospice. Simply call 855.500.RIDE to donate your vehicle to the VNA today!



Get a Flu Shot - Getting your flu shot through the VNA Shoo the Flu program will not only protect yourself this flu season, but also will help the VNA give charitable flu shots to those without insurance.



VNA Hospice House Endowment Fund Your contribution to the VNA Hospice House Endowment Fund will ensure future generations will have access to this important community resource for end-of-life support.

Support VNA Through Planned Giving

Planned giving, also referred to as gift planning or legacy giving, provides the VNA & Hospice Foundation with support to provide funding for the work VNA nurses and caregivers provide in our community. Making a gift to the VNA & Hospice Foundation is a distinctive way to create your own personal legacy, while at the same time helping to improve the lives and health of all our residents.

A charitable gift from your estate is a favored and simple method of giving that enables you to achieve your financial goals and benefit VNA.

Another simple option, that immediately benefits the VNA, is a charitable gift annuity which provides fixed payments for life in exchange for a gift of cash or securities. Current rates for those 60 years of age and over range from 3.9% - 8.6%! In today's economy, where else can one achieve a financial benefit like this while at the time support the VNA?

Talk to your financial advisor about including VNA in your plans. Throughout the year, we meet with members of our Planned Giving Council, a volunteer committee of local attorneys, CPAs, and financial advisors to keep them informed, for the benefits of their clients, about all the services VNA provides. At the same time, they provide counsel and expertise on planned giving, and we are always open to add new members.

For more information on planned giving, visit our website at plannedgiving.vnadc.org.

To join the Planned Giving Council, please contact Don Rudolph at drudolph@vnadc.com.

For more information, please contact the VNA & Hospice Foundation at 772.978.5568.



1110 35th Lane • Vero Beach, FL 32960
www.vnatc.org

NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
VERO BEACH, FL
PERMIT #42

Mailing Information

If you receive multiple mailings, would like to update your address, or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please call 772.978.5580.

Wish List

The VNA & Hospice Foundation seeks contributions to support ongoing priorities

Equipment Needed

Used to monitor bleeding and clotting for anyone taking blood thinners

PT/INR kit - \$995.00

PT/INR meter - \$525 each

Test strips box of 48 - \$258 each

Aromatherapy Diffuser

20 Diffusers needed - \$20 each (\$400 total)

Diffusers would be given to hospice patients receiving aromatherapy to help ease symptoms of pain, anxiety, insomnia and grief.

Project Wish Program Funding

Average Wish - \$300

This program has already made an impact by making hospice patients' final wishes come true. Additional funding will help ensure that more hospice families who do not have the financial means to grant their loved one's final wish – like paying for transportation to visit their favorite beach spot – can turn to the VNA for help.

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of these items, please call Michelle Deschane at 772.978.5568.

Connect with Us:



@vnahospicefoundation



@vnahospicefoundation



We are here when you need us, and accessible to you by phone or email.

EIN 59-2804739 - The VNA & Hospice Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization supporting charitable patient care, non-reimbursed services and program needs of the VNA of the Treasure Coast.



Annabel Robertson
Executive Director

P: 772.978.5573

E: arobertson@vnatc.com



Don Rudolph
Charitable Gift Planner/
Major and Planned Gifts

P: 772.978.5574

E: drudolph@vnatc.com