



NEWS RELEASE

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Art & Soup Event Raises Funds, Awards Top Chefs

Omaha, NE –February 21, 2008 - The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) hosted the eleventh annual Art & Soup event on February 17 and raised \$140,000 to benefit its Shelter Nursing program, which provides nursing services to children and adults living in Omaha and Council Bluffs homeless shelters.

This year, more than 1,000 people attended Art & Soup. Those who attended had the opportunity to sample culinary soup delights from some of Omaha's finest restaurants while they strolled the art gallery and purchased art from local artists, as well as participating in the silent auction.

The evening highlighted 60 local artists, who donated a minimum of 50 percent of all their sales to the VNA Shelter Nursing program. More than \$21,000 worth of art was sold that night.

Chefs from 25 Omaha/Council Bluffs restaurants competed in the "Battle of the Soups," with their original recipes. A panel of culinary judges selected the winners.

Chef Mark Johnson from Vivace won Grand Champion with Moroccan Yellow Pepper & Peach Bisque. The second-place winner was Chef Glenn Wheeler from Liberty Tavern with Caribbean Clam Chowder with 10 Cane Rum Flambéed Scallops. The third-place honor went to Chef Thurman Gleb at Waterfront Grille – Ameristar Casino with Truffled Cream of Yukon Gold Potato with Petite Beef Tenderloin & Boursin Ravioli.

Guests had the chance to vote for their favorites in the People's Choice Awards. Best Artist was awarded to Adam Weiss for his copper and metal sculpture artwork; Best Soup went to M's Pub and Chef Kenny Nazaruk for Kenny's Mulligatawny Soup; and the Best Restaurant Decorations went to Whole Foods Market.

The VNA is the only provider of nursing services in Omaha shelters, and has been since 1987. In 2007, VNA provided care to 1,045 children, 1,281 women and 1,917 men for a total of 4,243 individuals.

About the Visiting Nurse Association

Established in 1896, the VNA provides home care, IV therapy, hospice, and community health services. VNA staff visits clients in a variety of settings—homes, nursing care facilities, community centers, and homeless shelters. VNA cares for all people, especially mothers with infants and the elderly, for whom preventive care is critical. For more than 100 years, VNA remains true to its mission: to foster the dignity and well being of the residents of our community by delivering the highest quality home and community based health care services that provide peace of mind, quality of life, and independence.

About the Shelter Nursing Program

Nurses visit local Omaha-area homeless shelters to provide health care to children and adults, including health screenings, prenatal education and support, nutrition education, adult and pediatric asthma care, as well as linking individuals to primary health care providers, identifying community resources for families and advocating for the homeless, including frail elderly and immigrant populations. The VNA provides public health nursing to the following shelters: Siena Francis House, Open Door Mission/Lydia House, Cass Street, McAuley Center for Women and Families, The Shelter for Abused Women, Children's Crisis Center, Kids Cottage, Youth Emergency Service, Family Service Shelters and the Stephen Center.

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