



NEWS RELEASE

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VNA Employee of the Year Announced at Annual Luncheon

Omaha, NE – May 22 – The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) hosted its Annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon on May 15 at the Scott Conference Center. This year’s theme was “The Face of Champions” to depict the important role each VNA employee plays on our team to support the VNA mission to foster dignity and well-being for all residents of our communities.

Bruce Rasmussen, Director of Athletics at Creighton University, was the guest speaker, and reinforced the importance of everyone’s role on the team.

Mary Jo O’Reilly was nominated by her peers, and awarded the Mary Longmaid Offutt Employee of the Year Award. O’Reilly is a registered nurse case manager and has been with VNA for 28 years.

“What an honor it is to receive this award. It is with the support of my co-workers that I am able to provide the care I do for our patients,” states O’Reilly.

O’Reilly continues, “The VNA is a place where I can practice nursing whole-heartedly, working with the whole person. I am out alone seeing patients, but it is comforting to know that I have a whole group behind me here that I can call on to help me with patients, such as our dietitians, social workers, wound nurses, and therapists”.

The award is named after Mrs. Mary Longmaid Offutt, a long-time supporter of VNA. She served on the Board of Directors for 35 years, from 1932-1967. In her later years, she received VNA services. Mrs. Offutt always felt VNA should recognize outstanding staff members in some type of “Employee of the Year” award. Mrs. Offutt died in 1979 and in her will left VNA funds to be used for the sole purpose of recognizing outstanding VNA staff members.

“I have never met a nurse that truly reflected all the principles of the VNA as Mary Jo does. She fosters dignity in everyone she encounters, patients as well as other staff. She provides the highest level of care to each and every client and she is genuinely concerned about their welfare and peace of mind,” states O’Reilly’s manager, Bernadette Mruz, Clinical Manager for Home Care, and Shelters.

About the VNA

The VNA supports the dignity and well-being of Omaha and Council Bluffs residents by delivering the highest quality home care, IV therapy, hospice, and community/public health services wherever our clients call home. Our compassionate staff provides care to all individuals regardless of age, color, creed, neighborhood, or ability to pay. For more than 100 years, the VNA remains true to its mission to develop and maintain innovative programs that bring comfort and healing to the sick, frail, young, injured and the dying. Our overall goal is to provide peace of mind, quality of life, and independence for the client, their family, and their loved ones.

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