

# LOOK HOMEWARD

*A publication for the supporters of  
Visiting Nurse Health System*



"I make a  
difference  
in others'  
lives."

"It's a  
higher  
calling."

I'm part  
of a team  
that helps  
people.

Proud to be

# 2012

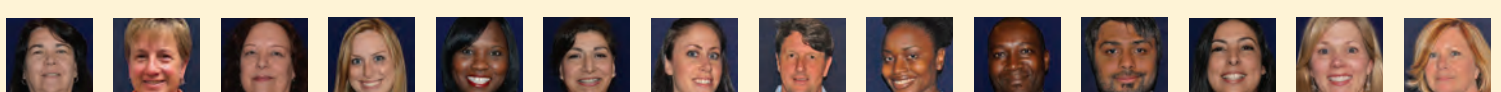
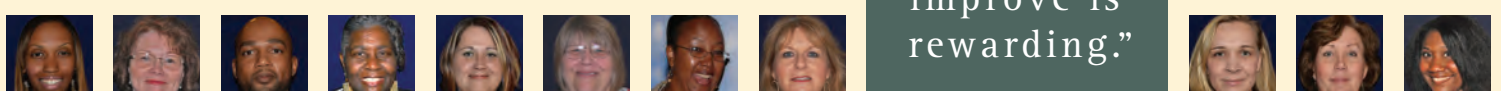
**ajc** Top Workplace



"What I  
do has  
value."

"I am able  
to give  
back to the  
community."

"To see the  
patient's  
health  
improve is  
rewarding."



INDUSTRY UPDATE

## New Partnerships

# Expand Our Reach Across the State

In February, Visiting Nurse Health System became the preferred provider of home healthcare services for Emory Healthcare. The partnership has given us a unique opportunity to expand beyond our metro Atlanta service area and carry our professional, efficient and patient-centered method of care throughout the state.

About 15 percent of Emory patients are discharged outside of our Atlanta service area. To provide care for these patients, we have developed partnerships with 14 home healthcare organizations across

the state. We will be offering quarterly training seminars for these partners on the most effective care delivery methods for patients at highest risk for readmission to the hospital. Indeed, our training program for our clinicians is one of our great strengths. Our nurses receive extensive classroom and field training before they begin visiting patients on their own.

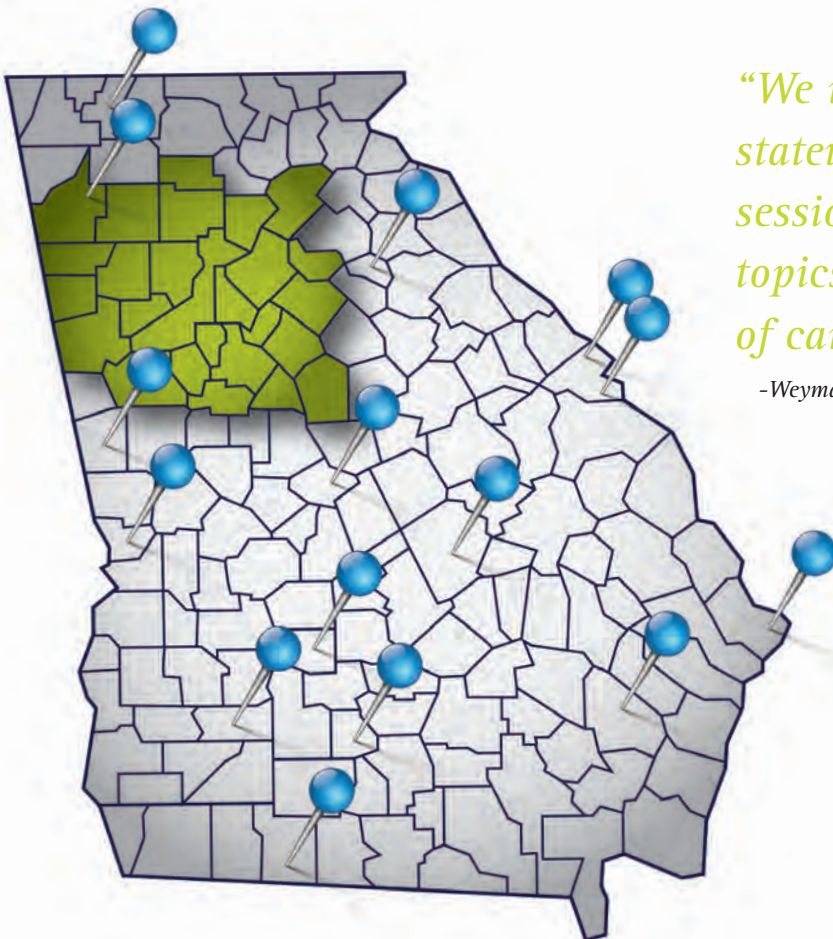
"We will offer providers in our statewide network at least four sessions a year, and we will cover topics directly related

to the intensity of care we provide in the home," says Weyman Perry, vice president of business development. "Topics will include managing patients at home with advanced heart disease, COPD or diabetes, advanced pain management and complex wound care."

By sharing our clinical knowledge and experience with other home healthcare providers across the state, we hope to positively impact home healthcare delivery in Georgia. ■

*"We will offer providers in our statewide network at least four sessions a year, and we will cover topics directly related to the intensity of care we provide in the home."*

*-Weyman Perry, Vice President of Business Development*





## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends,

I was extremely proud when Visiting Nurse was named one of Atlanta's top workplaces by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution. I was even more delighted with the reason we earned the honor. Our employees derive tremendous satisfaction from their work because it makes a difference in others' lives. Of the hundreds of surveys returned to the AJC, Visiting Nurse ranked second in the category which measured the degree that "I am part of something meaningful." More than anything else, this feeling of working toward a greater good is what brings our employees to work each day.

For example, one of our patients is a recent widower with heart failure. Our social worker found he wasn't going to his regular doctor visits because he felt his doctor was not treating him kindly. We also discovered that his wife's siblings had decided to donate his wife's body to medical science. He was all alone. With no place to pay respects to his wife, no children to visit, and no motivation to visit his doctor, he rarely left home and became depressed. He couldn't fill out his Social Security and benefits forms and began to lapse on his medication. Realizing the gravity of the situation, our social worker helped him fill out his paperwork and made sure he saw his doctor. With our help he is now visiting his doctor on a regular basis, taking his medication and receiving his full benefits. He no longer requires our care but he calls his nurse and social worker weekly to say hello and tell them how much happier he is. It's evident the extra attention and support our staff provided had the added benefit of improving his depression as well. We made a difference!

We will continue to search for ways to improve and expand our services, spurred by our employees' dedication to making a meaningful difference in the lives of our patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Oshnock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "Oshnock" clearly legible.

Mark Oshnock  
President and CEO  
Visiting Nurse Health System

FEATURE

# Visiting Nurse Health System Lauded As An AJC Top Workplace

Each year, the Atlanta Journal-Constitution asks area employees to submit nominations for the city's best places to work. When the results were tallied this year, Visiting Nurse Health System emerged as one of Atlanta's Top Workplaces.

More than 1,000 companies were nominated or asked to participate in the 2012 contest by the newspaper. Employees of participating companies were sent surveys asking them to rank their employer in six areas of the workplace:

- Direction: Assessment of the company's values, leaders and strategy
- Execution: Assessment of how the company communicates and gets work done
- Career: Opportunity for training and progression
- Conditions: Assessment of the working atmosphere and working environment
- Managers: Quality of the managers and their managerial skills
- Pay and Benefits: Assessment of employee compensation for the work done.

Visiting Nurse employee responses earned us a spot on the Top 20 list for large workplaces (500-plus employees). Our employees cited many reasons for valuing this workplace, including strong leadership, congenial and committed co-workers and a corporate commitment to employee health. But one reason rose above all others, resonating in virtually every response: the ability to make a difference in other people's lives.

Indeed, our mission statement is to improve the lives of those we serve. Every employee can recite that mission – how many companies can say that? But they do more than recite it – they live it. From clinicians in the field to executives behind the desk, the people who work here aren't in it for the money. The compensation they crave is the satisfaction that comes from helping those who need it.

Our clinicians are on the front lines of providing that care. Our nurses, therapists and aides go into people's homes – regardless of their ability to pay – and deliver the medical care that will allow them to recover at home.

JoAnn Fant, RN, left a 16-year career at an area hospital to join the Visiting Nurse team. The transition from treating patients in familiar, well-equipped hospital rooms to providing care in the varied homes of patients was eye-opening for Fant. "It's a very different atmosphere than in the hospital," she says. "In the hospital, I was concerned with very specific aspects of the patient's condition. This is more like looking at the person's whole life and seeing what you can do to



**ajc** The Atlanta  
Journal-Constitution  
Credible. Compelling. Complete.

positively impact that. I feel like it's a higher calling. I go home at the end of the day and feel like I've helped keep these people in their homes and out of the hospital or nursing home. Keeping people in their home hits them in their core."

Joy Buckner, RN, became interested in pursuing a career as a home healthcare nurse after her father suffered a stroke. She saw how the nurses who came to their home helped him recover. She worked for two chain home healthcare companies, but ended up at Visiting Nurse.

"This company is more like a family,"

says Buckner, who provides care out of our Fayetteville office. "And it actually lives by its mission. What I do has a value beyond bringing in a salary. I actually get to be a part of making these day-to-day changes in peoples lives that make them better."

Commitment to our mission goes beyond our dedicated clinicians and extends to our administrators and support staff. "Every person in this organization has a role and a function, and if that person goes away, there is a spoke in the wheel that is missing," says Patti Askew, vice president of human resources. "So even though you may not be at the bedside, what you do here is necessary for us to be able to do what we do, which is deliver the right care for the patient."

After leaving her job at an internet access provider, Christy Brice joined Visiting Nurse as vice president of information technology to lead the implementation of a new electronic medical records system solution. "Our team gives clinicians the tools to help make their

job easier so they can focus on what they do best – providing care," says Brice. "When I go to bed at night, I can say I made a difference. I like the way that feels."

As director of decision support, Deborah Gilkey supports all of the organization's software applications. "I'm very happy here," says Gilkey, who joined Visiting Nurse in 1994. "When I get up in the morning to go to work, I'm actually looking forward to

it. There are a lot of reasons for that – I like and respect the leadership team, I enjoy my co-workers and I like all the programs we have

geared toward employee health. But mainly I am part of a team that takes care of people who can't take care of themselves. Even though I'm not a clinician, what I do supports the clinicians, and in that way I am able to give back to the community."

That mission is what drew Mackay Asbury to Visiting Nurse in 2006. An account executive in the business development team, Asbury says, "In sales, I need a good story to tell, and we have a good story. We are more about mission than margin. Of course, we need to pay salaries and the light bill, but we try to reach a patient population that is wider and more in need than other home health agencies. I like being a part of that."

"I want to thank all our employees for their amazing dedication to our mission," says Mark Oshnock, president and CEO. "Their skills and dedication to our patients enable us to truly improve the lives of those we serve." ■

## SPECIAL PEOPLE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Our employees truly enjoy the work they do for Visiting Nurse Health System. Again and again they say that they feel good about their ability to improve the lives of the patients they serve. Indeed, it takes a special person to deliver the type of home-based care that we do. Here's what makes an employee a good fit at Visiting Nurse:

- Our clinicians have a strong, broad clinical background. "In the hospital, you have an IV team, a wound team – all sorts of specialists," says Patti Askew, vice president of human resources. "But our clinicians are all of those things. They enjoy looking at the whole patient rather than one particular condition."

- A Visiting Nurse clinician likes working independently, is able to think critically and is a good communicator. We provide care in the home, which means the clinician is on his or her own to manage the situation. Our clinicians like the autonomy and authority they have in making healthcare decisions.

- Our clinicians enjoy building relationships. "When you go into a patient's home, it's very different from seeing that same patient in the hospital or in an office," says Askew. "It's more personal, more relational. You deal with the entire family, the environment and all the interpersonal dynamics."

- Our clinicians have a flexible, but sometimes unpredictable practice. "In a hospital, you go in and know your shift starts at 7 AM and ends at 3:30 PM," says Askew. "Our clinicians have a lot of flexibility to manage their own practice, but their schedule can change in a moment's notice."

- Our support team, skilled in administration, HR, medical records, billing, finance, IT and logistics come to the office every day knowing that their work makes great care happen for 25,000 patients annually.

- Finally, and perhaps most importantly, our employees want to work in a mission-based organization. "It can't only be about the money," says Askew. "The people who work here are here because they truly want to make a difference in people's lives. It's why they do what they do."



## PROGRAMS



IMPROVING THE LIVES  
OF THOSE WHO SERVE

Ginna McFarling and Joan Caudill are nurses in our hospice program. “Both Ginna and Joan are wonderful resources for both our staff and the patients and families we serve,” says Debbie Mahovlich, a nurse at the Hospice Atlanta Center.

Ginna is a nurse practitioner at the Center. When new patients are admitted to the Center, Ginna is one of the first people they see. “Patients and families are often in a state of shock when they come in,” says Debbie. “They need a lot of help to make that transition, and Ginna is excellent at helping them do that. She has tremendous empathy, she is good at explaining what will happen and she has a great sense of humor. She has helped many people get through some very difficult times with her humor.”

Ginna is quick to help out the Center’s staff in any way she can. When the Center is short staffed, she’ll answer phones or track down medications or change dressings to help out other nurses who are busy.

Joan primarily works with home hospice patients, although she occasionally

comes into the Center. Her main responsibility involves completing the assessment and write-up for new patients entering hospice or for patients due to be recertified.

Joan is an excellent clinician, bringing experience she gleaned from working many years at Grady Memorial Hospital. She also brings a soothing bedside manner. “Joan has a lot of empathy, patience and she is extremely honest,” says Debbie. “She doesn’t pull any punches with patients or families, but she delivers information in such a kind way. The combination makes her a really good educator.

“Both Ginna and Joan are always there for you,” continues Debbie. “They’ll do

□ Ginna McFarling and Joan Caudill



anything in their power to help out in any way they can.”

Thank you, Ginna and Joan, for everything you do for our patients, our families and our staff. ■

## How to Care for Aging Parents Seminar Offers Valuable Resources

It’s an issue more and more people are either currently facing or anticipating – caring for aging parents. Taking on responsibilities for mom or dad can be a daunting prospect for adult children, especially for those who work full-time.

In response to this need, Visiting Nurse Health System has begun to offer Atlanta companies and civic organizations the opportunity to host a

30-minute discussion titled *How to Care for Aging Parents*. The presentation is complimentary for companies or civic organizations that host the presentation – although donations are appreciated. The host provides promotion of the event, the venue and refreshments.

Attendees receive valuable resources from Atlanta’s most trusted and experienced aging authority, Visiting

Nurse. During the seminar, a clinician covers topics that include how to prepare for the future, goals of care, care options, paying for healthcare and respite care. Attendees also learn about Visiting Nurse services that can help them provide the care their parents need. ■

For more information on hosting a seminar, visit our web site at [www.vnhs.org](http://www.vnhs.org) and search “*How to Care for Aging Parents*.”

# Filling a Need

## A New Fund Aims at Providing Unreimbursed Medical Supplies and Nutrition

Many of the life-saving supplies we use to care for our patients are not directly reimbursed by insurance, and many of our patients lack the resources to purchase them on their own. Yet access to these supplies is critical to patients' care and recovery.

Last year alone, the total cost of supplies for our patients was \$1.9 million. When patients have not been able to pay for

needed supplies, we have provided them and absorbed the cost. However, our ability to continue this practice is being challenged as home healthcare reimbursement falls.

We established a fund for nutrition and medical supplies in the hopes that generous donations will enable us to continue providing needed supplies to all of our

patients regardless of their economic circumstances. For more information, contact Lisa Robinson in the Office of Advancement at 404-215-6015. ■



As a practicing estate planning attorney, I have had the privilege of helping many clients plan and carry out their charitable gifts. What has struck me most about these gifts—whether a bequest made under a will or a gift made during life—is the tremendous satisfaction they bring to both the donor and the donee. While it may be true that it is more blessed to give than receive, what I have found is that virtually every gift, no matter the size, is appreciated by and meaningful to a charitable organization such as Visiting Nurse Health System.

Of course, there are financial benefits to giving. The tax code encourages donations by providing an income tax

# The Benefits of Planned Giving

By James R. Robinson, Schiff Hardin, LLP

deduction for charitable gifts. Moreover, charitable bequests are deductible for estate tax purposes, with no limitations. However, in my experience these financial benefits rarely drive the decision to give to an organization such as Visiting Nurse Health System—at least not exclusively, or even primarily. Almost always, the primary desire is to benefit those less fortunate and to make a positive impact in the world.

Numerous families have made the decision to make gifts to Visiting Nurse Health System because the family had a meaningful experience with the care of a loved one at the Hospice Atlanta Center. Many times this gift is an expression of gratitude and can be designated to reflect the donor's intentions such as support for the Preservation Fund at the Hospice Atlanta Center. Planned gifts to Visiting Nurse Health System

could also be designated to endow one of the chaplain positions or fund the uncompensated care for the Alzheimer's and Parkinson's program. In this low interest rate environment, Charitable Lead Annuity Trusts are a particularly attractive charitable gifting vehicle.

As a planner, I would be remiss if I were to suggest that no consideration should be given to the tax or other legal consequences of various forms of giving. However, in my experience such considerations should, and in the best circumstances do, take a secondary role to the other, more emotional and spiritual aspects of giving. ■

For further assistance with your planned gift to Visiting Nurse Health System, contact James R. Robinson at Schiff Hardin, LLC. (404) 437-7038 or [jrobinson@schiffhardin.com](mailto:jrobinson@schiffhardin.com)

CURRENT EVENTS

## Ron Stewart, Hospice Volunteer Receives 11Alive Community Service Award

Some 750 people gathered for a black-tie dinner at the Atlanta Marquis on May 3 for the 11Alive Community Service Awards. Each year for the past 37 years, 11Alive has honored 11 outstanding local volunteers who have demonstrated selfless devotion for the betterment of the community.

This year Visiting Nurse Health System hospice volunteer Ron Stewart was honored. And a well-deserved honor it was. Since he began donating his time at the Hospice Atlanta Center four years ago, Stewart has logged more than 2,000 volunteer hours! But it's not mere quantity – the quality of his service has proven invaluable to the Center's staff, its patients and their families.

"Ron comes in faithfully three days a week, and he regularly stays longer than his shift, and he visits patients in their



homes as well," says Ann Serrie, the Center's volunteer coordinator. "He will do absolutely anything we ask of him – make flyers, file paperwork, drive a van. But what really stands out about Ron is his ability to befriend patients and their

families. Because of his own experience with hospice – he has lost two wives to cancer, and he is also a three-time cancer survivor himself – he has such a great empathy for what they are going through. You will nearly always find him with a patient, laughing, talking or listening, and always holding their hand."

"People often ask me why I do it," says Stewart, 80. "And all I can say is, it's just the thing to do. I can read where they are coming from, and I've gotten pretty close to some of the patients here. One man's step-

grandchildren called me 'Poppa Ron.' I get so much out of what I do."

To see the 11Alive profile of Stewart, visit our website at [www.vnhs.org](http://www.vnhs.org) and enter "News articles" in the search field. ■

## Long Term Care At Home Patient Mattie Lee Hobson Celebrates Her 100th Birthday



It is not every day that a birthday celebrant receives a letter from television's Willard Scott. But if you are Mattie Lee Spencer Hobson, celebrating

your 100th birthday with five generations of family surrounding you, this accolade is just part of an exceptional day.

Family and friends gathered to celebrate Mattie Lee's birthday, noting that without the care from Visiting Nurse, very little of this would be possible. Mattie Lee is able to live with her daughter, who is also receiving care from Visiting Nurse, while granddaughters Kathy Gore and Angela Banks provide a loving home and safe environment. After having a positive experience with hospice care, Mattie Lee

now stays at home and receives primary medical treatment from Visiting Nurse House Call physician Dr. Espinosa and additional support to meet her needs for daily living.

Mattie Lee has lived long enough to have experienced President Taft as well as our current administration, new cars that cost \$600, the invention of canned beer and one standard southern comfort, iced tea. Her hopes are that, with our continued care and her great enthusiasm for living, there will be many more birthdays. ■



## CURRENT EVENTS

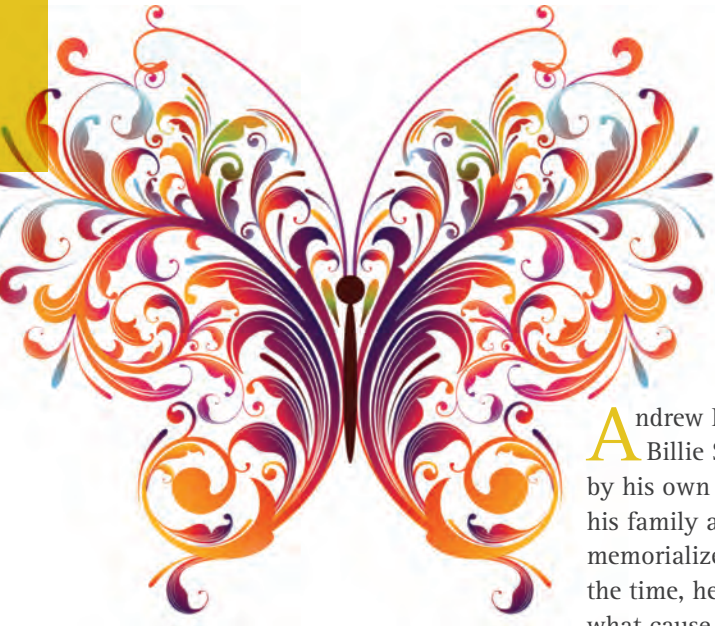
## BIG-TO-DO Chilly Fun & Warm Feeling of Helping Others

This year's Big-To-Do at Snow Mountain at Stone Mountain Park was a hit. Some 500 snow enthusiasts gathered to tube down Snow Mountain, make snowmen, crawl through snow tunnels and throw snowballs. More than \$75,000 was raised to benefit our pediatric patients and their families.

Special thanks to Host Committee chair Ashley Giradino and vice-chair Angela Graff and their host committee. Stay tuned to our website, [www.vnhs.org](http://www.vnhs.org), for more photos of this year's event and for information about next year's Big-To-Do, Sunday, February 10, 2013 at Snow Mountain. If you would like to join our Big-To-Do Host Committee, we need both individual and corporate team fundraisers. To learn more, contact [sue.carpenter@vnhs.org](mailto:sue.carpenter@vnhs.org).



## CURRENT EVENTS



# Our 25th Fall Benefit Honors Andy Been For His Family Foundation's Work To Help Grieving Families Heal

Andrew Been established the Billie S. Been Foundation – funded by his own contributions and those of his family and friends – to honor and memorialize his wife. At the time, he didn't know what cause the foundation would support, he just wanted a way to celebrate Billie's life and keep her memory alive. When Andy and his family reflected on her final days and the compassion and care she received in the hands of the Visiting Nurse Health System hospice program, they decided a family bereavement camp would be a fitting legacy.

The Billie S. Been Foundation provided the funds to launch Camp STARS for Families, and it continues to be the camp's major source of funds. In Camp STARS for Families, Andy reached his goal. Billie's memory lives on year after year helping families who are suffering in the same way hers did.

Billie Shacklett Been was diagnosed with cervical adenocarcinoma in 1994. After surgery, chemotherapy and radiation treatment, she lived nine years. "Looking back, it was probably Billie's faith and courage that carried us," Andy later wrote.

In 2003, the cancer returned and claimed Billie's life at the age of 39. Our hospice team allowed Billie to spend her final days in her home, in dignity and surrounded by family and friends.



Shortly after Billie's death, Andy learned about our Camp STARS for Children. Held every November at Camp Twin Lakes in Rutledge, GA, the camp gives children a safe and supportive place to grieve the loss of a

family member. Offered to children aged seven to 17, the three-day camp offers activities such as group sharing, music and singing, field sports, arts and crafts, games, fishing and boating. A special service of remembrance gives each child a creative way to remember a loved one.

Andy enrolled his two daughters, Hanna and Sarah Lynn but then had second thoughts because of their young age, then ten and six. However, Andy himself visited the camp and learned Visiting Nurse was hoping to launch a similar camp for families. This, he decided, was the cause the foundation could support.

Andy and his daughters participated in the inaugural Camp STARS for Families in 2007, and he has bittersweet memories of the experience.



"I knew that it would be hard for the girls to remember their mother, and I hope that this experience keeps her memory alive for them," said Andy. "We left that first camp experience rejuvenated with the memory of Billie and comforted by knowing that we were not alone in our experience."

It's that sentiment – that you are not alone in your grief – that is articulated time and again by both children and adults who have experienced Camp STARS.

"I believe that Billie would be honored to know that her foundation is helping in the healing process of grieving families, especially children," says Andy. "My hope is that as my children mature they too will take an active role in the foundation not only as a way to remember their mother, but also as a way to share the experiences that they have had and to provide an example of how good life can be, even after experiencing such a painful loss."

*In the Moment – A Celebration of Life* is an annual benefit that celebrates the work of Visiting Nurse Health System and honors the volunteers and donors who enable our organization to serve the community. Proceeds benefit various hospice programs. This year, the benefit will be held on September 29, 2012, at the downtown Ritz-Carlton. This inspiring evening will be emceed by a Channel 2 Action News anchor John Bachman and will feature a cocktail reception, dinner, video presentation, a live and silent auction containing packages related to living in the moment, and a special surprise performance.

Capt. Forrest Leef and his wife, Dr. Dorothy Mitchell-Leef, are co-chairing the event. Their host committee includes: Pat Archer, Houston Bass, Kimberly Cambias, Pamela Chawkin, Renee Gazaway, David Hass, Terri Hirsh, Beverly Hutchinson, Gwenn Kenny, David Kirkland, Robin Kreitner, Liz Levine, Laurel Levy, Freda Mayes, Caroline Moise, Starr Moore, Brian Ranck, Amy Ruda, Stephanie Thomas, Tracy Veal and Heather Robertson Wright. ■



## Praise for Camp STARS and The Billie S. Been Foundation

Dear Been Family,

My family just wanted to sincerely thank you all for giving us a place to come together and grieve as a family. My son's school informed us about the bereavement camp after he lost his dad and his grandmother (my mom) within months of each other. My three boys went to the camp in 2010 and again in 2011, but I was not enthusiastic about attending because I didn't want to grieve publicly.

I changed my mind and applied to attend the family camp with my boys. My sister and her three daughters decided to join us. During the retreat, I realized it was the first time in two years that we had all gathered together in one place. It made me realize how much my family really means to me.

The camp gave us so much relief and relaxation. I found that I was okay talking about the memory of my loved ones and it didn't hurt so much when I was able to share it with people who were in the same situation and who genuinely understood.

So again, I thank you for giving me a new sense of normalcy in my life.  
Lakashal T.

Camp STARS brought my family together to start the healing process from the loss of our precious loved one Rosa Mary J. It allowed us to share our grief as a family and talk about our hurt and feelings of missing Rosa. The staff of Camp STARS was wonderful, loving, caring and supporting to my family. Barbara did an awesome job with assisting us in being a part of the camp this year. It was my family's first visit to the Camp STARS and we were truly blessed.

Thanks a million for helping the J. Family in our healing process.  
Maelene C. & The J. Family

The camp was great, the staff was pleasant, patient and loving. Keep up the good work, and thank you for such a beautiful experience.  
Sincerely, Barbara M.



CURRENT EVENTS

## Visiting Nurse Health System Welcomes Two New Members to its Board of Directors

**R**eginald R. Mebane, MS, the director of the Office of Diversity Management and Equal Employment Opportunity for the Centers of Disease Control and formerly with FedEx, has joined our Board of Directors. “Reggie brings a strong background in logistics, which is a big part of what we do – matching up patients and clinicians,” says Mark Oshnock, president and CEO of Visiting Nurse Health System. “Combine that skill with his expertise in healthcare and Reggie brings valuable expertise to our board.”

Reginald R. Mebane, MS



**Paul D. Thodeson** served clients at Ernst & Young for over 30 years prior to his recent retirement. “Paul will chair our board’s finance committee,” says Oshnock. “To that role he brings a long and distinguished history in accounting and finance. His critical expertise will be invaluable to our leadership team.”

Paul D. Thodeson



Yvette Hagins, executive director/CEO of Whitefoord Community Program, and Terri Theisen, founder and principal consultant of Theisen Consulting LLC, have rolled off of the Visiting Nurse Health System’s Board of Directors and

onto its Advisory Board. In addition, **Martin Moran, MD**, a retired pediatrician, has joined the Advisory Board. Moran served on our Board of Directors from 1998 to 2001 and, with his wife Harriet, co-chaired the 2011 Fall Event. ■

## Kevin Spears Joins Advancement Team



**K**evin Spears has joined our advancement team as a development officer. In this role, he will be responsible for cultivating charitable support from individuals, families and foundations that make it possible for Visiting Nurse to fulfill its mission. He will focus on strengthening relationships with long-time supporters of Visiting Nurse and developing new connections in the community.

“I first became aware of the great work of Visiting Nurse when I was at The

Community Foundation in the late 1990s and I have friends who have benefited from Visiting Nurse Health System’s excellent care,” says Kevin. “So, for me, it’s a great privilege to join this team and to be an ambassador for an organization so highly regarded in our community.”

Kevin graduated from Furman University in Greenville, S.C., and holds a Master of Divinity from Emory University. A native of Mississippi, he has made Atlanta his home for 20 years. ■



## annual applause

### Stacey Levensgood Honored with Dot Cares Award

Each year, the Dot Cares Award is presented to a clinician who has demonstrated exceptional performance, lives the mission of Visiting Nurse Health System, and has a reputation among patients and peers as a caregiver who shows uncompromising care and compassion. This award, created in 2007, honors the legacy of long-time Board member and Visiting Nurse supporter Dot Cohen. Dot, who passed away on August 29, 2009, was a cherished part of our organization for more than 30 years.

This year the Dot Cares Award was presented to Stacey Levensgood, physical therapist. Stacey's personnel file is filled with letters of thanks and commendation from grateful families and fellow staff members. That's no surprise. Stacey is always willing to go the extra mile for co-workers and patients alike. She has taken time out of her day to go to the hospital to meet a patient to ease the discharge plans for an anxious family. She is always willing to lend a hand when it is needed, and

she is trusted with the most delicate situations. We want to thank Stacey for her outstanding dedication and service.

In addition to the Dot Cares Award, we present annual Excellence Awards. Professionalism, commitment to best practices, and high standards of excellence are at the heart of these awards. ■

### This Year's Excellence Award Winners

Congratulations and thank you to all our award winners!

Adefi "Adi" Adefunke,  
Hospice LPN and 20-year veteran  
with Visiting Nurse Health System

Marjorie Fisher,  
Transitions Liaison RN

Doris Jones,  
Long Term Care At Home RN

Sandy Larson,  
Home Healthcare RN and New Homecare Specialist

Karen Lindsey,  
Grants and Annual Fund Manager

Deborah Matthewson,  
Home Health Aide and 28-year veteran with Visiting Nurse

Ann Mitchell,  
Hospice RN

Julie Neuman,  
Infection Prevention and Control RN

Angela Riggins,  
Home Healthcare Telehealth LPN



Sharon "Scottie" Scott,  
Hospice Bereavement Coordinator,  
Social Worker and 29-year veteran

Linda Scull,  
Home Healthcare Physical Therapist and Homecare Specialist

Kimberly Smith,  
Home Healthcare Certified Wound and Ostomy Nurse

Iris Tathem,  
Home Healthcare Physical Therapist and Homecare Specialist

Kimberly Thomas,  
Hospice Certified Nursing Assistant

Alexis Volpe,  
Long Term Care Clinical Manager and Social Worker



## MEMORIAL AND HONORARY GIFTS

# January 1 – March 31, 2012

The following people were thoughtfully remembered with a gift in their name:

### In Honor of:

Mrs. Mary Dinos  
Mrs. Susan Griffin  
Ms. Starr Moore  
Ms. Lisa Robinson  
Dr. Benjamin S. Warsaw

### In Memory of:

Reverend Willie Allen  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Battle  
Mrs. Marguerite H. Bell  
Mrs. Margaret M. Bernal and  
Baby David Tillman Morris  
Mrs. Caroline Yundt Bethea  
Mrs. Lola Bing  
Mrs. Joanna B. Blalock  
Mrs. Amma W. Bowman  
Ms. Lucy Browning  
Ms. Louise Bryant  
Ms. Mary W. Carithers  
Mr. Craig Carlisle  
Mrs. Florence Bowles Carter  
Mr. Robert Carol Carver

Mr. Larry D. Case  
Ms. Ginger Condra  
Mrs. Palma Cowan  
Mr. Allen H. Creagh  
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### Terry Duis Board Member and Friend

Visiting Nurse Health System lost a beloved and valued advisor with the death of Terry Duis on November 12, 2011. Duis served on our Board of Directors since 1989. His deep healthcare finance expertise, practical wisdom and unassuming disposition brought tremendous value.

"As head of our Board's finance committee, Terry helped steer Visiting Nurse through some challenging financial times and helped guide us toward becoming the largest nonprofit home healthcare provider in the state," says Mark Oshnock, president and CEO of Visiting Nurse Health System. "His diligence, his healthcare finance expertise and his dry wit brought incalculable value to our organization. Terry will be greatly missed."

Duis, who worked with Arthur Andersen before his retirement, was recognized by Visiting Nurse on both a local and national level. In appreciation for his unwavering support, the Visiting Nurse Associations of America named him the Volunteer of the Year in 2002. He was honored locally by Visiting Nurse Health System in 2008 for his tremendous leadership and service.

In his memory, a paver in the garden of the extraordinary Hospice Atlanta Center has been engraved with his name to serve as a tribute and memorial.

### Constance Kulhman Hospice RN

Constance "Connie" Kulhman died on March 11, 2012, from pancreatic cancer. She joined Visiting Nurse Health System as a hospice nurse in early 2009 and was working at the Hospice Atlanta Center when she was diagnosed with cancer in 2010. She continued working until April, 2011.

"Connie's patients just loved her, and so did the staff here," says Carole Cox, clinical manager for the Center. "She was always there to help in any way she could, and she really went above and beyond for her patients. She will be missed."



### Mason Wolfe Hospice CNA

Mason Culler Wolfe died unexpectedly on Wednesday, March 28, 2012. Wolfe worked as a certified nursing assistant in hospice services for Visiting Nurse Health System. He was recognized as the Outstanding Team Member for caring, compassion and accomplishments by the North Georgia Hospice Nurses Association and Visiting Nurse Health System in 2010.

Wolfe is remembered for his compassionate nature. "He was an amazing caregiver with a heart of gold," says Myra Downs, director of education and staff development. "He was admired by his co-workers and adored by his patients."



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HEALTH SYSTEM

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