



# The VNA Voice

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## From Our House to Yours

Giving is defined as “the act of bestowing as a gift; a conferring or imparting.” It comes in many forms as in the gift of time, compassion, commitment, and of course, dollars. As I reviewed this edition of the VNA Voice, the overwhelming theme for me came back to giving in all those forms... and more.

I've shared on many occasions the humbling gratitude we feel by the continuous generosity of our community in terms of monetary donations. The recap of Visiting Nurses' signature fundraiser, 3.d, is an incredible example of that type of giving. However, it must be noted that there is so much giving prior to and during the event. Our sponsorship increased and about 280 local businesses and/or individuals donated goods/services for our 3.d this year. That level of recognition and appreciation for Visiting Nurses' 50 years of service is overwhelming! Then there are all

those friends of Visiting Nurses who give themselves to help make the event happen. More than 80 people provided various degrees of time and talent to ensure our “VNA is Golden” 2019 3.d was the best ever.

Our “Heart of VNA” feature shares a story of giving through compassion and commitment. Yes, Kim Pixler is an employee of Visiting Nurses, and yes, it was her “job” to help promote our mission and purpose. If any of you know or even met Kim for just a moment, you would know she is a walking, talking, “heart on her sleeve” ambassador for Visiting Nurses. That is a gift one cannot quantify. We will miss Kim as she journeys through this challenge, but will always be here for her with our compassion and commitment.

Finally, Visiting Nurses had some unique “givers” this year. We had the privilege of being the philanthropy partner for both our local Eagles club and the Granny

Basketball National Tournament which was held in Lawrence this year (and next!). Both opportunities were initiated by event coordinators who embody the spirit of giving. We are grateful for the new friends created through these generous events.

Giving. It really is a fundamental way in which we connect and succeed. Whether it be your time, talent, dollars, or sharing your heart, never stop looking for ways to give to someone or something about which you are passionate. Thanks to all for whom that is Visiting Nurses!!!



*Cynthia Lewis*  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

### OUR MISSION

To provide excellent community-based health care and support services throughout the continuum of care.

### OUR VISION

To be the home health and hospice provider of choice to our community through continued excellence in health care service and business practices.





## Development Corner: Community Support Makes the Difference

# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR PATIENTS!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to our 3.d Casino Night Fundraiser! Sponsors, in-kind donors, volunteers, and everyone who attended the event helped us raise over:

# \$57,000



## The Heart of VNA: Connecting with Kim

**K**im Pixler's time at VNA was all about connections. As VNA's Marketing Manager, Kim made countless connections throughout the community, but she also made many strong connections with coworkers in her 10 years with the organization. Kim became close friends with Janice White, VNA's HR Manager, after they realized they shared a connection from many years ago. Kim also renewed a good friendship with Debbie Carter, VNA's Executive Assistant. The two of them shared a special moment in 2016, when Kim was the one to present Debbie with the Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year Award. Kim developed many friendships in her time at VNA and although she is having to step back, those friendships will continue.



Pictured above: (Left to Right) Kim Pixler, posed for a picture with Pat Deaver and Debbie Carter on a day they all happened to wear matching outfits.

Kim does not want to step back from the organization, nor did VNA want her to, but life had other plans for her. After experiencing some physical symptoms that were making some aspects of her job challenging, Kim went to her doctor. After numerous tests, Kim was diagnosed with ALS in the spring of 2019. The difficult diagnosis meant that Kim's symptoms were not going to improve and she had to put her

career aside.

Both Kim and the organization gained a great deal from her 10 years of employment. When Kim started at VNA, her position was brand new. "They recruited me to come over here to start the marketing and development program, which was fun. They'd never done an annual appeal or any kind of fundraising or anything," Kim said. VNA was already very well established within the community at that time, but had room to grow. Kim's work helped VNA reach more patients to provide them with high-quality care. "We had a good reputation in the community anyway, but having somebody out going into doctor's offices and facilities built the relationships there. Referrals picked up when we were actually out talking and taking brochures." Kim's hard work to help more patients access VNA's care helped the marketing and development department and the agency as a whole grow.

**"Look at what it has grown to now," she said. "It's rewarding to know I had a little piece in where we're at now."**

Despite VNA's growth and changes over the years, Kim noted that one thing has never changed. "We have always been patient-first. It's still that way today. I've always been really proud of that." It was the patient-first mentality, high-quality care, and the people, both those in the community and in the office, that motivated Kim to work at VNA for more than 10 years. These things are the reasons that Kim would



Pictured above: Kim Pixler poses with former KU Football head coach and VNA advocate, Don Fambrough at a VNA fundraiser.

still love for VNA to be a part of her daily life if her health allowed.

**"I love the agency, I always have. I've been very passionate about what we do and how well we take care of patients in all of our programs. I loved my job, that's what made it easy to come to work, because I love what we do. It was easy to go talk to people about it," she said.**

Kim is making the most of the situation and the opportunities it has provided. Kim has already traveled and spent more time with family and friends. In the near future, she hopes to go on a cruise with her husband, be involved with the ALS Association in some fashion, and to go on some trips with her family.

Though her situation isn't easy, Kim has done her best to stay positive. "Stuff hits you out of the blue sometimes, but you've got to be positive and move forward. I've tried to do as much positive stuff as I can with what I've got," she said.

**Thank you, Kim, for sharing your journey! Your VNA family wishes you all the best!**



## Volunteer Spotlight: Organizations Volunteer to Raise Funds

Visiting Nurses has been fortunate to work with two great organizations recently to raise funds for patient care.



On July 13, VNA teamed up with Eagles Aerie #309 for a small fundraiser. Cassie Gilmore and Rheva Victor, of the Fraternal Order of the Eagles, organized the event for VNA in response to a comment made by Washington State Senator, Maureen Walsh, about how nurses “probably play cards for a considerable amount of the day.” Determined to turn this negative comment into a positive,

Cassie and Rheva spearheaded a fundraiser for VNA that featured card games, other games of chance, and a raffle. Thanks to the support of Eagles Aerie #309 and other community members, this event raised over \$1,300 for Visiting Nurses.



On July 20, The Granny Basketball National Tournament came to Lawrence. The tournament’s planning committee, led by local Granny Basketball player Dee Bisel, selected Visiting Nurses as



the official non-profit partner. The fun and entertaining event featured 16 teams of women over age 50 playing six on six basketball by the original 1920’s rules. As the official nonprofit partner, VNA helped promote the event and provided volunteers. The event raised \$1,900 for VNA’s patients. Thanks to both organizations for supporting VNA!



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