



# The VNA Voice

Edition 26 - Winter 2020 - [kansasvna.org](http://kansasvna.org)

## *From Our House to Yours*

2019 was an exciting year for Visiting Nurses. We celebrated our 50th anniversary of caring for patients in Douglas County. We had several events relating to our 50th anniversary and other fundraising events as well. Here is a look back at our 2019:



VNA celebrated 50 years of serving Douglas County with a dinner honoring our founders. VNA's early staff members, board members, and the current management team attended. We also celebrated the anniversary with an open house.



VNA's 50th anniversary was also recognized with City and County Proclamations. Our biennial 3.d Casino Night Fundraiser also served as a celebration of the anniversary. Eagles Aerie #309 and The Granny Basketball League both held fundraisers for VNA in 2019. Our Hospice program was awarded the SHP Best Hospice Caregiver Satisfaction Award.



In August of 2019, it was time to celebrate 20 years of the Community Health Facility housing VNA, Bert Nash, and the Health Department. VNA's 50th anniversary was recognized again, this time by the Kansas Home Care and Hospice Association. VNA's staff rounded out the year by volunteering for the Kansas Half Marathon and by participating in the Lawrence Veterans Day Parade.

### **OUR MISSION**

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

### **OUR VISION**

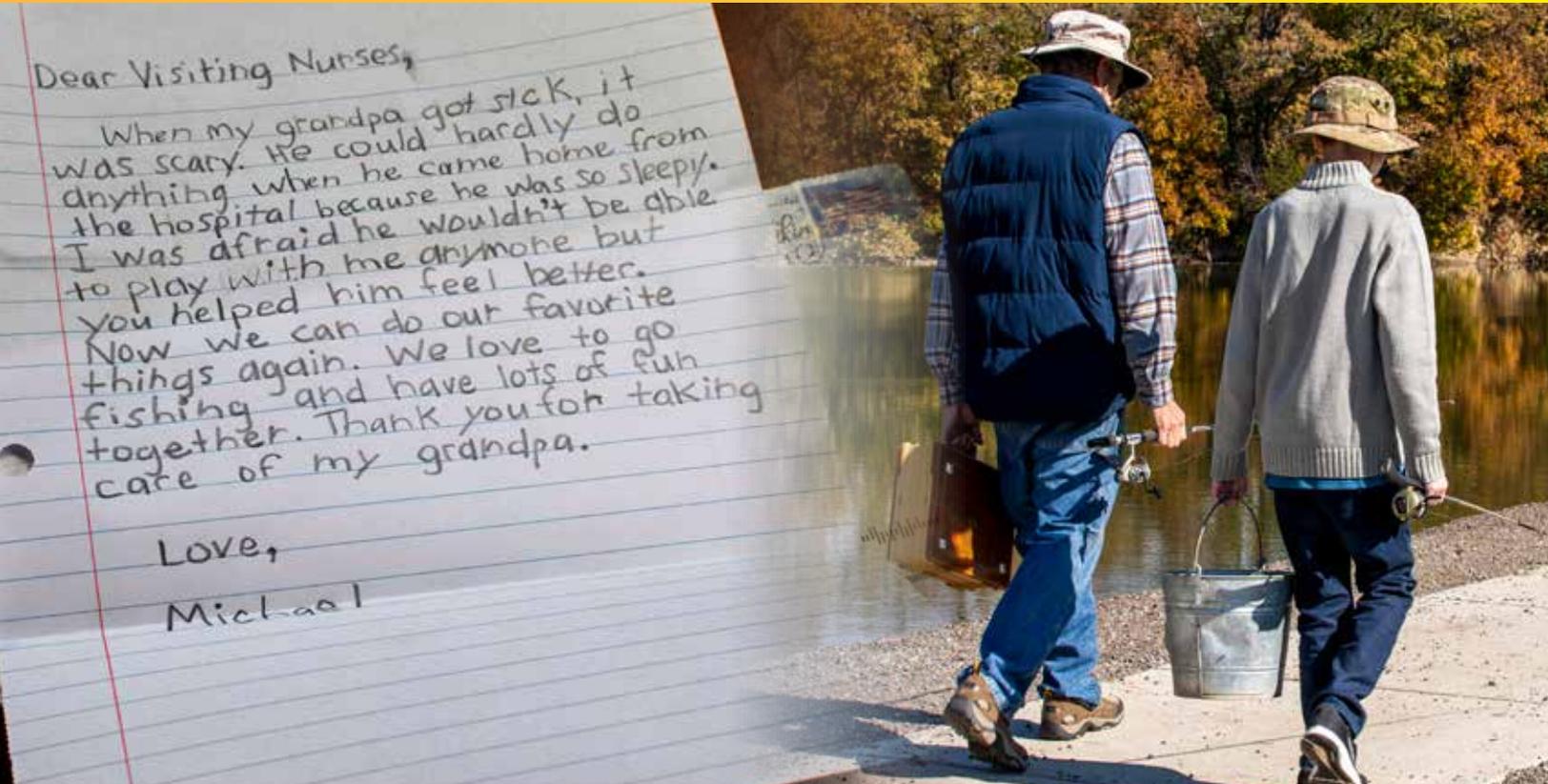
To be the home health and hospice provider of choice to our community through continued excellence in health care service and business practices.



# VISITING NURSES

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## *Development Corner: VNA's 2019-2020 Annual Appeal*



Your gift to Visiting Nurses allows us to help grandpas and grandmas and everyone in between. They rely on us. We rely on your support.



**THANK YOU**  
**FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEART**  
Donate today at [KansasVNA.org/donate](http://KansasVNA.org/donate)  
or call (785) 843-3738

## *The Heart of VNA: We Honor Veterans*

How do you adequately honor a hero? There doesn't seem to be an easy answer to that question, but Visiting Nurses' staff members are doing their best to honor heroes in any way they can. Visiting Nurses' Hospice program is uniquely positioned to honor Veterans one final time in their lives. Through a partnership with the *We Honor Veterans* campaign, VNA's Hospice program is committed to identifying patients with military experience, increasing their access to Veteran services, providing Veteran-centric education for staff and volunteers, focusing on recruiting new volunteers with military backgrounds to serve Veteran patients and by honoring those patients through formal acknowledgment ceremonies.



Pictured above: The card and pin that is presented to Veterans in the pinning ceremony.

In partnership with *We Honor Veterans*, VNA honors Veterans with special pinning ceremonies. These ceremonies are incredibly meaningful for Veterans and their families and pay tribute to the sacrifice and dedication that the patient has paid to his or her country.

In addition to VNA's regular efforts to honor Veterans, VNA's staff recently honored local Veterans by participating in the 2019 Lawrence Veterans Day Parade. "The



Pictured above: Two Veterans stand near the VNA parade float before the Lawrence Veterans Day Parade.

Lawrence Veterans Day Parade Association plays a role in finding Veterans so that the community can recognize and thank them for their service," said Michelle Mailand, Parade Committee Chair. VNA's float for the parade had special meaning to all who contributed to it. Staff members constructed a float that spelled out the word "HEROES." The true heart of the tribute was displayed in each carefully crafted letter of the word, as each one was made up of pictures of Veterans. Many of the pictures were of Veterans connected to VNA. Some of the pictures were of family members of staff, while others were of patients and volunteers. Many VNA staff members were happy to participate in the preparation of the float and in the parade.

VNA staff members also recruited



Pictured above: VNA staff, volunteers, and Veterans pose with the VNA *We Honor Veterans* Float before the 2019 Lawrence Veterans Day Parade.

Veterans to ride on and walk along-side the float.



Pictured above: Veterans rode on and walked beside the VNA float for the parade.

The 2019 Lawrence Veterans Day Parade started making its way down Massachusetts Street at 11:00 a.m. on November 9. It was a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning that made for the perfect conditions to honor local Veterans. VNA's float received excellent feedback from the parade attendees. VNA plans to take part in this wonderful event again in 2020 to continue to honor Veterans.



Pictured above: The VNA *We Honor Veterans* parade float.

## Employee Spotlight: The 2019 Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year

Tasha Lower-Zeikle is VNA's Revenue Cycle Supervisor and Oasis Diagnosis Coder. She has been a valued member of VNA's staff for over 10 years. On November 8, at VNA's annual Employee Appreciation Dinner, Tasha was honored as the 2019 Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year. The presentation of the award was especially meaningful as Angie Lower, Tasha's coworker and sister, was the one to present her with the award. Tasha's coworkers nominated her for the award. There were many reasons for Tasha's nominations for the award, but her work ethic, commitment to VNA's success, and expertise stand out most

to her colleagues. One of the submitted nominations noted her crucial "behind the scenes" impact on VNA. Although Tasha is not out in the community providing care for patients, her work is vital



Pictured above: The 2019 Marceil Lauppe Employee of the Year, Tasha Lower-Zeikle, poses with her colleague and sister, Angie Lower, who presented the award to her at VNA's annual Employee Appreciation Dinner.

in allowing VNA's clinical staff to provide excellent care.

Tasha's colleague and sister, Angie, best expressed Tasha's contributions to VNA when presenting her with the award.

"Our award recipient is funny, hard-working, tenacious, a problem-solver and not only super knowledgeable with her job, department and responsibilities, but if anyone comes to her stumped about what they need to do within their job responsibilities, she usually knows this too, and if she doesn't, she finds out," Angie said.

**Congratulations, Tasha!**

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## VISITING NURSES



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