



NEWS RELEASE

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VNA Employee of the Year Announced at Annual Luncheon

Omaha, NE – May 9 – The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) hosted its Annual Staff Appreciation Luncheon on May 2 at the Scott Conference Center. Melanie Clarke was nominated by her peers, and was awarded the Mary Longmaid Offutt Employee of the Year Award. Clarke is the Physical Therapy Clinical Educator and has been with VNA for eight years.

This 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.

"What an honor to receive the Mary Longmaid Offutt Award, especially since I know how hard everyone works at the VNA. All of the staff and volunteers contribute to make our programs so successful. Thank you for this special award," stated Clarke.

Clarke's role at the VNA includes not only treating patients as a physical therapist but also serves as an educator to her peers. In addition, she holds a case conference with each physical therapist, and guides, educates, and assists other physical therapists in the management of their caseloads.

In 2005, Clarke was an integral part of the development of the VNA Pediatric Weight Management program, which implements specialized instruction to obese children and their families to increase their knowledge about the dangers of obesity and then motivates them to become more active and healthy.

"Melanie demonstrates great respect for her patients and co-workers. Many of the patients are low-income, isolated, alone, and under-served. She identifies their needs, and works towards meeting those needs through physical therapy, as well as bringing in other disciplines and the use of other resources. She provides caring, compassionate, and professional intervention to all," states Clarke's manager, Amanda Holst, Rehabilitation Clinical Manager.

About the VNA

Established in 1896, the VNA provides home care, home infusion, hospice, and community health services. VNA staff visits clients in a variety of settings - homes, nursing care facilities, community centers, and homeless shelters. 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.

VNA is accredited by The Joint Commission.

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