



The Face of Care

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NEWS RELEASE

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Senator Nelson Secures \$250,000 for VNA Prevent Child Abuse Program

Omaha, NE – August 3, 2007 – The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) is pleased to announce Senator Nelson secured \$250,000 for Prevent Child Abuse program that VNA has developed in collaboration with Child Saving Institute. The program is an expansion of the VNA's current home visitation services, and will now combine public health nursing with social work therapy. The federal funds will provide more at-risk families with a full array of in-home intervention services to prevent child abuse.

Many parents with infants and children experience stressors that can contribute to intentional and unintentional harm to their children. This program has licensed mental health therapists, public health nurses, family support workers, and community advocates providing critical services in the homes of at-risk families. Specifically, they educate the parents about child abuse and the long-term harm it has on children, families, and the community at-large.

Moreover, they provide the parents with important child care and nurturing skills, health education, mental health assessment, and in-home support so parents can proactively take steps to eliminate abuse.

At-risk families need immediate, in-home intervention to prevent child abuse from occurring. Research has shown that early investment in nurse home visitation and counseling can prevent child abuse, thereby decreasing costs that stem from abuse, such as hospitalizations and emergency room visits, foster care placements, unintended pregnancies, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, and adult criminality.

About the VNA

Established in 1896, the VNA provides home care, IV therapy, 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.

The Joint Commission accredits VNA.

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