



News Release

For Immediate Release
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*(VNA Philadelphia Executive Staff making Breakfast Bags for the hungry
L to R: Jill Morrisroe; Craig Hindman; Dawn King; Elwood Hungarter; Renee Savarese and Amy Sloan.)*

VNA Philly Execs Giving Back In Season of Thanksgiving

In this season of Thanksgiving, VNA Philadelphia – a 501c3 non-profit organization – had a “soft-launch” of a new initiative they have named, “VNA Volunteers!” where they will support other local non-profit organizations. Staff will be given the opportunity to volunteer during their regular workday with organizations that have supported VNA Philadelphia’s new Population Health program.

An interdisciplinary, customizable approach to health, Population Health is essential to improving one’s quality of life through community resources. To introduce this new and generous initiative, the VNA Philadelphia Executive Team volunteered at Caring for Friend’s warehouse compiling hundreds of “Breakfast Bags” to be distributed to other partners and ultimately the homeless. Caring for Friends, formerly known as Aid for Friends, is one of the largest and most comprehensive meal delivery programs in the Greater Philadelphia region and has delivered “food and friendship since 1974.” VNA Philadelphia provides care to an average daily census of 1,200 patients through home health, palliative and hospice programs. With staff providing care to people in 4 of the poorest zip codes in the country, the majority of VNA’s patients are low-income and in need of food.

An active partner of VNA Philadelphia's Food Pantry, Caring for Friends has been essential to the success of VNA's new Population Health program, says Craig Hindman, Director of Population Health and Clinical Services at VNA Philadelphia. "Being able to pick up both frozen and fresh meals on a weekly basis is so important to VNA's mission of providing home health, palliative and end of life care of the highest quality to all people, regardless of their ability to pay."

Understanding the need for food, especially in Philadelphia – the poorest big city in the United States – is critical. "The number of people that need food is unbelievable and very sad," says Elwood Hungarter, President and CEO of VNA Philadelphia. "Our Food Pantry is a great thing, but there is so much more to do," laments Hungarter.

VNA Philadelphia's "VNA Volunteers!" will launch in January 2020.

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VNA Philadelphia is the oldest and one of the largest non-profit home health and hospice providers in the region and one of the most innovative in the nation. Founded in 1886, VNA Philadelphia is headquartered in the East Falls section of the city. VNA Philadelphia is Medicare Certified, licensed by the State of Pennsylvania, and Accredited by the Community Health Accreditation Program (CHAP).

To find out more about the VNA, contact us at 215-473-0772 or visit www.vnaphilly.org.