together,
we’re making a difference

2016 VNSNY CHARITABLE CARE AND COMMUNITY BENEFIT REPORT
showcasing support of the not-for-profit Visiting Nurse Service of New York
I am pleased to share with you this 2016 report on the Visiting Nurse Service of New York’s (VNSNY) charitable care and community benefit programs. I’m gratified to note that our organization provided nearly $19 million in charitable care and community benefit services during the past year, including $9.4 million that went to providing direct home care for more than 6,700 under- and uninsured New Yorkers. These vital services are improving the lives of thousands of New Yorkers, from first-time mothers and their newborn infants trying to break out of the cycle of poverty to our oldest patients, many of whom are frail, isolated, and living alone. Together, we’re helping our neighbors who otherwise might not receive the care they so desperately need, and who might slip through the cracks if not for VNSNY.

This ongoing impact of our safety-net programs reflects VNSNY’s continued focus on its mission of caring for New York City’s most vulnerable individuals and families. As the nation’s largest not-for-profit home- and community-based health care organization, VNSNY, like the rest of the health care industry, has gone through challenging times recently—but our commitment to that mission has never wavered.

In recognition of that support, this year’s report features profiles of a few of our many generous donors, along with descriptions of the programs that our donors’ contributions are helping to make possible. Their stories capture the compassion and empathy that characterize all of VNSNY’s thousands of donors.

As this report reveals, VNSNY’s charitable care mission-related activities are as strong as ever. More than 120 years after VNSNY founder Lillian Wald first reached out to impoverished immigrants on Manhattan’s Lower East Side, our determination to address the needs of our community’s underserved and vulnerable populations is undiminished.

Thank you for your generous support. Together, we are making a difference in the lives of thousands of New Yorkers. I hope we can continue to count on your assistance in helping those less fortunate build a healthier, brighter future.

John Rafferty
Board Chair
Since her days as a New York City preschool teacher, when she worried about the home lives of troubled 4-year-olds who were coming to school angry, artist Joan Easton had been looking for a way to make a difference in children’s lives. When she read an article in 2006 about a life-changing program called the Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP), in which nurses provide one-on-one counseling to young first-time mothers, she knew she found her cause: “I ran to my husband and said, ‘This is it! This is the program I want to be involved in.’”

Once she learned that the national program had a branch in New York—the Visiting Nurse Service of New York’s Nurse-Family Partnership—the connection was instant and deep. Since then, Joan has been one of the program’s staunchest supporters. She contributes financially, holds information sessions in her Manhattan apartment, has “shadowed” NFP nurses on visits, and regularly attends the program’s annual graduation ceremony for moms and their children.

She sees enormous power in the program’s person-to-person approach. “The humanity and compassion with which the nurses support and educate these young women and their families is wonderful and crucial,” says Joan. She is impressed by how the NFP helps graduates transform the future for themselves and their babies. The memory still resonates of two NFP clients who spoke at information sessions she hosted. “These are smart, articulate and centered young women who started out drifting in life, suddenly finding they were pregnant and not knowing what to do,” Joan recalls. “By the time they graduated from the NFP, each not only had a healthy and happy child but was also back on track herself.” They had returned to school or gotten a job, and had much higher aspirations for their families. “This is real change, and it’s very gratifying to be a part of it.”
Some relationships are meant to be. When Elizabeth Sesselberg, RN, interviewed for a job at VNSNY in 1979, she was hired on the spot. In the decades since, she has served in various areas of the organization, including acute care in the Bronx. She is so inspired by the legacy of VNSNY founder Lillian Wald that she used to stop by Wald’s grave regularly when visiting her family in Rochester. Like her predecessor, Elizabeth also goes above and beyond for people in need, both in her nursing work and on her own time. For many years, she made Christmas meals for patients without relatives nearby, and drove through the city with other volunteers to deliver the meals and gifts that VNSNY had purchased with charitable care dollars.

Elizabeth also gives out of her own pocket, making a financial contribution to VNSNY each year, to sustain and enrich the charitable care that VNSNY provides. Her recent gifts include support for the Soto Scholarship to Promote Diversity in Nursing, an award named in honor of longtime VNSNY nurse Elsie Soto that is given to especially promising nursing students to advance diversity.

Elizabeth donates to the scholarship because she knows how valuable education is to a nurse’s future—and how valuable nurses are to health care’s future. “Health care itself may be changing, but what hasn’t changed is the care and consideration that nurses give to our patients,” she says. “Patients come in all kinds and have different needs, but their basic needs are the same: they need our compassion, our understanding, and our teaching. Our goals as nurses remain the same: we want to give people the skills and capacity to manage their own care, so they can have the best quality of life possible.”

“Health care itself may be changing, but what hasn’t changed is the care and consideration that nurses give to our patients.”
One remarkable aspect of VNSNY’s charitable efforts is the fact that scores of our own staff members give tens of thousands of dollars each year to support our mission. Nurse Elizabeth Sesselberg, profiled on page 6, is one of many longtime employees who regularly donate to VNSNY. But we also have a new wave of younger staff who are creating their own tradition of generosity—people like Allison Simms, PT, DPT, MHA, who has been contributing to VNSNY since she began here as a manager in physical therapy five years ago.

Allison explains that this spirit of giving is part of her Caribbean heritage. “I have a philosophy that you give back from within—that’s my culture,” she says. “I believe it takes a village to sustain a community. The mission and vision that my family has instilled in me is similar to VNSNY’s mission, which they have had for over 120 years.”

Allison explains that this spirit of giving is part of her Caribbean heritage. “I have a philosophy that you give back from within—that’s my culture,” she says. “I believe it takes a village to sustain a community. The mission and vision that my family has instilled in me is similar to VNSNY’s mission, which they have had for over 120 years.”

That is why, in addition to carrying out VNSNY’s mission by delivering expert and compassionate care to her patients, she makes a financial gift every year in support of VNSNY’s charitable care programs. “I recognize that this is a not-for-profit organization, and that the work that we do on a day-to-day basis includes free care for those who couldn’t afford it otherwise,” she says. “I want to give to VNSNY to help make sure those services can continue.”
Lisa Chickering wasn’t sure what to expect when she enrolled her longtime partner, Jeanne Porterfield, in hospice care with VNSNY. It was the year 2010, and Jeanne was in the final stages of a battle with Parkinson’s disease. “I couldn’t tell her, ‘This is hospice,’ because back then we thought hospice spelled doomsday and death,” Lisa recalls.

The hospice services they received from VNSNY completely changed her mind—and inspired Lisa’s generous, ongoing support of our Hospice and Palliative Care program. “The most wonderful people came into our home and brought us peace,” she says. With the eye of a professional photographer who traveled the world and made award-winning documentaries with Jeanne, a journalist, Lisa still carries the visual memory of one of their hospice caregivers. “Her eyes looked like she was looking into heaven.”

Lisa’s giving is motivated in part by a desire to help more people understand what hospice really means. “Hospice does not spell death—it spells love,” she explains. “It spells compassion, kindness, gentleness. Hospice means someone is here to ease your pain.”
Drew Schiff:
Extending Lillian Wald’s Mission

In the 1890s and early 1900s, banker Jacob Schiff was among the first philanthropists to support the vital care that Lillian Wald was delivering in the homes of the poor and sick on Manhattan’s Lower East Side. Today, as the Visiting Nurse Service of New York continues to evolve to meet the needs of twenty-first century New Yorkers, Jacob’s great-great-grandson, Dr. Andrew “Drew” Schiff, is adding his own support to that legacy. In recognition of his contributions, which include long service as a VNSNY Board member as well as his generous giving to VNSNY’s charitable care programs, Drew was a featured honoree at VNSNY’s benefit gala last November.

A physician by training, Drew brings a unique insight to his role with our organization. “I believe VNSNY is both a tremendous institution that’s providing social services to people who otherwise might not get them, and an incredibly important participant in one of the largest trends in medicine—the movement from inpatient to outpatient care,” he says. “With shorter hospital stays and greater care being provided outside the hospital, VNSNY is right at that nexus.”

Drew’s leadership involvement has recently included a focus on VNSNY CHOICE Health Plans, which offers innovative long-term care solutions to help New Yorkers age successfully in their communities. “Insurance wasn’t a consideration when Lillian Wald started VNSNY,” he notes, “but were she around today, she’d surely recognize that lack of insurance is a social service impediment in today’s world, as much as hygiene and cleanliness were in the world in which she lived. She would also understand that providing insurance for elderly ill people is a very important extension of what we do, and a fundamental part of VNSNY’s mission.”
During the six years that Howard Schwartz struggled with Parkinson’s disease, the Manhattan resident received care from many different VNSNY clinicians. “Every single time anyone from the Visiting Nurse Service of New York came into our home, I was absolutely amazed at the kindness, the competence, and the caring they showed in working with Howard,” says his wife, Phyllis Schwartz. “This is a wonderful organization because it’s so human.”

Following the visit of a particularly empathetic and comforting nurse, Phyllis decided to express her gratitude in the form of a financial contribution. “The nurse just lifted my spirit and gave me hope for the future,” she recalls. “She was so exceptional, I sent a grant of $1,000 to the organization with a note that said, ‘I was distraught, and you sent us an angel.’”

Phyllis’s contributions have expanded over the years. Today, she generously supports several VNSNY programs, including the Hospice Physician Fellowship Program—reflecting her appreciation for the hospice care her husband received. “I’m always interested in helping people to live better, even if it’s only for a short time, at the end of life. Howard did, thanks to the marvelous VNSNY Home Hospice team,” she says. “He was not frightened in his final days. VNSNY Hospice’s gift to me and my children was enabling Howard to die at home in his own bed, as calm, peaceful and dignified in death as he was in life.”

“Phyllis Schwartz: ‘You Sent Us an Angel’”

“*I’m always interested in helping people to live better, even if it’s only for a short time, at the end of life. Howard did, thanks to the marvelous VNSNY Home Hospice team.*”

Phyllis Schwartz
Nurse-Family Partnership

VNSNY’s Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) provides the comprehensive support that young mothers in the Bronx and Nassau need to keep their babies healthy, learning and thriving from pregnancy onward. This evidence-based program has a remarkable track record in helping to break the cycle of poverty and improve the future for its clients and their families.

The program identifies first-time, low-income mothers-to-be—nearly half of whom are teenagers—and pairs them with a specially trained VNSNY nurse. Working closely with the mother from pregnancy to the child’s second birthday, the nurse monitors the mother’s health, promotes mother-child interactions that enhance development, and helps the mother plan for her child’s future and pursue her own educational and career goals.

Compared to their peers, mothers who participate in Nurse-Family Partnership tend to have better prenatal health, wait longer to have another baby, and are more likely to continue school and get a job. NFP also improves children’s health and school readiness, and boosts families’ economic well-being.

Chinatown NNORC and Community Center

Many seniors in New York City’s Chinatown neighborhood live in aging, walk-up tenement apartment buildings, which can breed isolation and threaten health and well-being. Since the majority speak no English, these seniors are often invisible to social services and health networks without special outreach efforts.

Through the Chinatown Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NNORC) Program, VNSNY and its Chinatown partner organizations work collaboratively to ensure that residents age sixty and over are connected to the health, social and translation services they need in order to age in place successfully. The wide range of services provides important connections to NNORC members in their native language by staff who understand the culture and needs of these seniors. Many program initiatives emphasize ways to maintain health and wellness.

NNORC members who are frail or “environmentally homebound” because they cannot navigate tenement stairs are visited in their home to address both social and health concerns. Our NNORC team provides evaluation and assessment, information and referral, and links to the services offered through our organization and our many partner agencies aligned with VNSNY’s mission to support successful community living.

Since its launch in 2006, VNSNY’s Nurse-Family Partnership has served over 4,500 families. Operating in the Bronx and Nassau County, our Nurse-Family Partnership programs receive funding from the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the New York State Department of Health. We also thank Robin Hood, the Tiger Foundation, the Charles A. Frueauff Foundation, the Heurtier Foundations, The Overdeck Foundation, The Marion E. Kenworthy-Sarah H. Swift Foundation, and our many generous individual donors for their support of our NFP.
together,
we’re providing vital medical support to children and their families

**Maternity, Newborn and Pediatric Services**

VNSNY’s Maternity, Newborn and Pediatric (MNP) services provides family-focused home care, including skilled nursing, rehabilitation therapy, social work and home health aide services, to children up to the age of 18 who are facing serious and complex medical needs. Working closely with families and physicians to ensure the best possible outcomes, we care for children with a wide range of conditions, including prematurity, AIDS, seizure disorders, sickle cell anemia, childhood cancers, cerebral palsy, organ transplants, disabilities, and neurological, respiratory, orthopedic and cardiac disorders, as well as pediatric palliative care needs.

We also provide skilled clinical and home health aide services to pregnant and postpartum women, treating postpartum complications, including post-cesarean wound care, as well as high-risk conditions during pregnancy such as diabetes, pre-term labor, hypertension and HIV/AIDS.

**Bronx Fatherhood Program**

Targeting 16- to 35-year-old first-time fathers, VNSNY’s Bronx Fatherhood program provides the support, skills and knowledge these young men need to change their perception of the responsibilities and joys of fatherhood. Many of the participants have grown up in fatherless homes, and the program aims—one family at a time—to break the cycle of absentee fatherhood.

The young men attend support groups, receive basic parenting instruction, and connect with community resources that help them continue their education, find employment, and contribute financially to their children’s lives. Since 2007, when the program began, the Bronx Fatherhood has worked with more than 550 young men.

We gratefully acknowledge our many generous individual donors for their support of the Bronx Fatherhood program.
together,
we're bringing quality of life to the end of life

together,
we're creating paths to better health for families living with HIV/AIDS

**VNSNY Hospice and Palliative Care**

**VNSNY Hospice and Palliative Care** provides comfort, dignity and quality of life at the end of life for patients and their families. Our multidisciplinary teams offer high-quality medical, nursing, emotional and spiritual care to help patients remain at home and as comfortable as possible. We also attend to family members, answering their questions and guiding them through this difficult time, so they can concentrate fully on being with their loved one.

Although most of our hospice patients are cared for in their homes, VNSNY also delivers specialized end-of-life care in other settings, including our Shirley Goodman and Himan Brown Residence (a dignified, home-like setting for patients who cannot remain at home), the VNSNY Haven Hospice Specialty Care Unit at Bellevue Hospital (a 25-bed facility that provides short-term inpatient hospice care for patients whose symptoms cannot be managed at home), as well as in nursing homes and assisted living facilities.

Founded in 1983, our hospice is one of the largest in the area, caring for approximately 925 patients on any given day, and is the only hospice that serves all five boroughs of New York City. In 2015, we provided hospice and palliative care services to 3,279 patients, along with their families.

**HIV/AIDS Family Support Team**

The Visiting Nurse Service of New York’s HIV/AIDS Family Support Team offers a comprehensive approach to supporting and stabilizing low-income families coping with HIV/AIDS. This includes ensuring that diagnosed individuals—including pregnant women—get the medical care they need and adhere to medical regimens, and that children affected by a parent’s illness receive counseling and other support.

VNSNY has been providing home- and community-based healthcare services to people with HIV/AIDS since the start of the epidemic in the early 1980s. Today, we’re still providing care to thousands of AIDS patients through our VNSNY CHOICE SelectHealth Plan. On the charitable care front, our Family Support Team staff addresses the needs of low-income families—90 percent of them headed by single mothers—in which a parent or other family member has been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS.

Team members, including social workers and psychiatrists, provide a wide array of services for both adults and children. In 2015, our HIV/AIDS Family Support Team provided homemaking, social work and psychiatric services to some 50 families with children who have at least one member who has AIDS or is HIV positive.
VNSNY’s Community Mental Health Services are funded through grants and contracts from several government offices, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York State Office of Mental Health, the New York City Human Resources Administration, and managed care organizations designated to provide behavioral health benefits, as well as many generous individual donors.

VNSNY’s Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) offers over two dozen community outreach programs for low-income children and adults struggling with severe or persistent mental illness or substance abuse problems. These vital programs care for some 3,000 people on any given day, ranging from young children to seniors. CMHS served approximately 12,000 clients in 2015.

For children in the Bronx living with serious emotional disturbance, for instance, our FRIENDS programs provide community-based, family-focused mental health and social support services to stabilize behavior and ensure greater academic and social achievement. Partnership is vital for this vulnerable group. Working with several school districts, the programs bring together VNSNY, the New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York City Department of Education.

Other programs include VNSNY’s Mobile Crisis Teams, which provide rapid assessment and short-term, in-home mental health services for adults and children experiencing, or at risk of, a psychiatric or psychosocial crisis; our Geriatric Mental Health Outreach programs, which provide assessment, counseling, and psychiatric care to Bronx, Manhattan and Queens senior citizens in need; and Care Management programs under three Health Homes covering Manhattan, Bronx and Queens, as well as a separate program for adults with substance use disorders who apply for or receive public assistance.

VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research

The exchange of ideas and information is critical to improving the delivery of health care, and no lab is more relevant these days than the home. VNSNY is on the cutting edge of home care research and educational development, helping to ensure that healthcare practices evolve to meet the needs of this transformative time.

As the nation’s only home- and community-based healthcare organization with its own research center, the internationally renowned VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research conducts rigorous scientific research with the goal of promoting positive changes in the field of health care. Data gathered by the Center—recognized as the preeminent research institute for home care—has broad applications for home- and community-based care. The Research Center frequently hosts delegations from across the country and around the globe, and publishes its findings in a wide array of academic journals.

Community Mental Health Services

The work at the Research Center is supported by multiple public and private sources. Studies currently underway are funded by federal sources such as the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institute on Aging, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Private sources include the Beatrice Renfield Foundation, The Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Partnership Fund, the Frank Morgan Jones Fund, the Silvian Foundation, Deutsche Bank Americas, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania President’s Engagement Prize, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the UJA Federation, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, and the New York Community Trust. The Center is also funded by the New York City Council and by New York State through the Sandy Social Services Block Grant and the New York State Health Foundation, as well as by numerous personal donations.

VNSNY's Community Mental Health Services are funded through grants and contracts from several government offices, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York State Office of Mental Health, the New York City Human Resources Administration, and managed care organizations designated to provide behavioral health benefits, as well as many generous individual donors.

VNSNY’s Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) offers over two dozen community outreach programs for low-income children and adults struggling with severe or persistent mental illness or substance abuse problems. These vital programs care for some 3,000 people on any given day, ranging from young children to seniors. CMHS served approximately 12,000 clients in 2015.

For children in the Bronx living with serious emotional disturbance, for instance, our FRIENDS programs provide community-based, family-focused mental health and social support services to stabilize behavior and ensure greater academic and social achievement. Partnership is vital for this vulnerable group. Working with several school districts, the programs bring together VNSNY, the New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York City Department of Education.

Other programs include VNSNY’s Mobile Crisis Teams, which provide rapid assessment and short-term, in-home mental health services for adults and children experiencing, or at risk of, a psychiatric or psychosocial crisis; our Geriatric Mental Health Outreach programs, which provide assessment, counseling, and psychiatric care to Bronx, Manhattan and Queens senior citizens in need; and Care Management programs under three Health Homes covering Manhattan, Bronx and Queens, as well as a separate program for adults with substance use disorders who apply for or receive public assistance.

VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research

The exchange of ideas and information is critical to improving the delivery of health care, and no lab is more relevant these days than the home. VNSNY is on the cutting edge of home care research and educational development, helping to ensure that healthcare practices evolve to meet the needs of this transformative time.

As the nation’s only home- and community-based healthcare organization with its own research center, the internationally renowned VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research conducts rigorous scientific research with the goal of promoting positive changes in the field of health care. Data gathered by the Center—recognized as the preeminent research institute for home care—has broad applications for home- and community-based care. The Research Center frequently hosts delegations from across the country and around the globe, and publishes its findings in a wide array of academic journals.

Community Mental Health Services

The work at the Research Center is supported by multiple public and private sources. Studies currently underway are funded by federal sources such as the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institute on Aging, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Private sources include the Beatrice Renfield Foundation, The Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Partnership Fund, the Frank Morgan Jones Fund, the Silvian Foundation, Deutsche Bank Americas, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania President’s Engagement Prize, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the UJA Federation, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, and the New York Community Trust. The Center is also funded by the New York City Council and by New York State through the Sandy Social Services Block Grant and the New York State Health Foundation, as well as by numerous personal donations.

VNSNY's Community Mental Health Services are funded through grants and contracts from several government offices, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York State Office of Mental Health, the New York City Human Resources Administration, and managed care organizations designated to provide behavioral health benefits, as well as many generous individual donors.

VNSNY’s Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) offers over two dozen community outreach programs for low-income children and adults struggling with severe or persistent mental illness or substance abuse problems. These vital programs care for some 3,000 people on any given day, ranging from young children to seniors. CMHS served approximately 12,000 clients in 2015.

For children in the Bronx living with serious emotional disturbance, for instance, our FRIENDS programs provide community-based, family-focused mental health and social support services to stabilize behavior and ensure greater academic and social achievement. Partnership is vital for this vulnerable group. Working with several school districts, the programs bring together VNSNY, the New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York City Department of Education.

Other programs include VNSNY’s Mobile Crisis Teams, which provide rapid assessment and short-term, in-home mental health services for adults and children experiencing, or at risk of, a psychiatric or psychosocial crisis; our Geriatric Mental Health Outreach programs, which provide assessment, counseling, and psychiatric care to Bronx, Manhattan and Queens senior citizens in need; and Care Management programs under three Health Homes covering Manhattan, Bronx and Queens, as well as a separate program for adults with substance use disorders who apply for or receive public assistance.

VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research

The exchange of ideas and information is critical to improving the delivery of health care, and no lab is more relevant these days than the home. VNSNY is on the cutting edge of home care research and educational development, helping to ensure that healthcare practices evolve to meet the needs of this transformative time.

As the nation’s only home- and community-based healthcare organization with its own research center, the internationally renowned VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research conducts rigorous scientific research with the goal of promoting positive changes in the field of health care. Data gathered by the Center—recognized as the preeminent research institute for home care—has broad applications for home- and community-based care. The Research Center frequently hosts delegations from across the country and around the globe, and publishes its findings in a wide array of academic journals.

Community Mental Health Services

The work at the Research Center is supported by multiple public and private sources. Studies currently underway are funded by federal sources such as the National Institute of Nursing Research, National Institute on Aging, and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke at the National Institutes of Health (NIH); and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) and the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Private sources include the Beatrice Renfield Foundation, The Eugenie and Joseph Doyle Research Partnership Fund, the Frank Morgan Jones Fund, the Silvian Foundation, Deutsche Bank Americas, the Fan Fox and Leslie R. Samuels Foundation, the University of Pennsylvania President’s Engagement Prize, the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, the UJA Federation, the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation, the Jonas Center for Nursing Excellence, and the New York Community Trust. The Center is also funded by the New York City Council and by New York State through the Sandy Social Services Block Grant and the New York State Health Foundation, as well as by numerous personal donations.

VNSNY's Community Mental Health Services are funded through grants and contracts from several government offices, including the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, the New York State Office of Mental Health, the New York City Human Resources Administration, and managed care organizations designated to provide behavioral health benefits, as well as many generous individual donors.

VNSNY’s Community Mental Health Services (CMHS) offers over two dozen community outreach programs for low-income children and adults struggling with severe or persistent mental illness or substance abuse problems. These vital programs care for some 3,000 people on any given day, ranging from young children to seniors. CMHS served approximately 12,000 clients in 2015.

For children in the Bronx living with serious emotional disturbance, for instance, our FRIENDS programs provide community-based, family-focused mental health and social support services to stabilize behavior and ensure greater academic and social achievement. Partnership is vital for this vulnerable group. Working with several school districts, the programs bring together VNSNY, the New York State Office of Mental Health and the New York City Department of Education.

Other programs include VNSNY’s Mobile Crisis Teams, which provide rapid assessment and short-term, in-home mental health services for adults and children experiencing, or at risk of, a psychiatric or psychosocial crisis; our Geriatric Mental Health Outreach programs, which provide assessment, counseling, and psychiatric care to Bronx, Manhattan and Queens senior citizens in need; and Care Management programs under three Health Homes covering Manhattan, Bronx and Queens, as well as a separate program for adults with substance use disorders who apply for or receive public assistance.

VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research

The exchange of ideas and information is critical to improving the delivery of health care, and no lab is more relevant these days than the home. VNSNY is on the cutting edge of home care research and educational development, helping to ensure that healthcare practices evolve to meet the needs of this transformative time.

As the nation’s only home- and community-based healthcare organization with its own research center, the internationally renowned VNSNY Center for Home Care Policy & Research conducts rigorous scientific research with the goal of promoting positive changes in the field of health care. Data gathered by the Center—recognized as the preeminent research institute for home care—has broad applications for home- and community-based care. The Research Center frequently hosts delegations from across the country and around the globe, and publishes its findings in a wide array of academic journals.
The VNSNY Benefit Dinner took place in November at the Waldorf Astoria, and for the 12th straight year, raised over $1 million. The event benefited our Children and Family Services. NBC 4 New York anchor Shiba Russell was the emcee of the evening, which included a special performance by New York Youth Symphony Jazz. Board Chair John Rafferty, Board Member Andrew Schiff, VNSNY Volunteer Council First VP Patricia Ewert, VNSNY CEO Guy Sansone, and VNSNY CHOICE Board Chair Andrew N. Schiff were honored with the Lillian D. Wald Award, which is named after VNSNY’s founder and presented annually to those who have made significant contributions to the health and welfare of others.

In 2015, more than 600 VNSNY volunteers provided over 35,000 hours of services. In so doing, they made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of patients, including some of our most vulnerable children and their families as well as homebound patients. VNSNY volunteers range in age from 14 to 95 years old and help with a wide range of activities. They work alongside trained staff or in hospice, visiting patients and families, creating art at the bedside or holding bedside vigils for nursing home patients who are nearing the end of life without family around them. In VNSNY CHOICE, volunteers act as recreation assistants at the CHOICE Adult Day Center and make friendly phone visits to lonely CHOICE members in their homes, to help relieve isolation and ensure that hearing a familiar voice is part of a senior’s day.

In 2015, the dollar value of the time volunteers donated to VNSNY was calculated at more than $925,000—but in truth their contributions are priceless. For more on becoming a VNSNY Volunteer, please call 212-609-1570. If you are interested in becoming a VNSNY Hospice and Palliative Care volunteer, please call 212-609-1908. Thank you!

VNSNY Volunteer Program

Volunteers make vital contributions throughout our entire organization every day. In 2015, more than 600 VNSNY volunteers provided over 35,000 hours of services. In so doing, they made a positive impact on the lives of thousands of patients, including some of our most vulnerable children and their families as well as homebound patients.

VNSNY volunteers range in age from 14 to 95 years old and help with a wide range of activities. They work alongside trained staff or in hospice, visiting patients and families, creating art at the bedside or holding bedside vigils for nursing home patients who are nearing the end of life without family around them. In VNSNY CHOICE, volunteers act as recreation assistants at the CHOICE Adult Day Center and make friendly phone visits to lonely CHOICE members in their homes, to help relieve isolation and ensure that hearing a familiar voice is part of a senior’s day.

VNSNY 2015 Benefit Dinner
The VNSNY Benefit Dinner took place in November at the Waldorf Astoria, and for the 12th straight year, raised over $1 million. The event benefited our Children & Family Services, honored longtime VNSNY Board Member Andrew Schiff and the VNSNY Volunteers. From left to right: Board Chair John Rafferty, Board Member Andrew Schiff, VNSNY Volunteer Council First VP Patricia Ewert, emcee Shiba Russell, and VNSNY CEO Guy Sansone.

VNSNY 2015 Golf Classic
One hundred twenty-two golfers played in June’s VNSNY Golf Classic at The Apawamis Club in Rye, NY. That evening, 160 friends and supporters enjoyed dinner, awards, auctions, and raffles that raised over $250,000 for our Nurse-Family Partnership. A highlight of the evening was when VNSNY CEO Guy Sansone turned auctioneer and sold special golf and tennis experiences to raise additional funds.

Volunteer Events
In 2015, four major events raised money for the Volunteer Council Benefit Fund. The Manhattan Committee hosted a June cocktail party/dinner and a December holiday party, and the Douglaston Committee hosted a June Spring Tea and a December Holiday Luncheon. The volunteers who planned these events maximized the amount of funds raised by assuming many of the associated costs.

Other Special Events
Under the “Amazing Lives” banner, VNSNY provided opportunities throughout the year for donors to deepen and enrich their relationships with the organization. In May, the 2015 “Amazing Lives” Texture featured Angelo Coletti, a physician, writer, and patients’ rights advocate. At a July cocktail reception, VNSNY introduced donors to our new Senior Vice President of Hospice and Palliative Care, Rosemary Baughn, RN, MSN. The event was held at Board member Mary Davidson’s art gallery, the Maxwell Davidson Gallery, in Chelsea. Three “Food for Thought” cocktail events in October provided an intimate setting for smaller groups to meet fascinating people and take part in interesting conversations with guest speakers such as Larry Cunningham (best-selling author), Margalit Fox (New York Times writer), and Malachy McCourt (storyteller and personality). And in December, to celebrate a successful year, donors attended the 2015 holiday party at VNSNY’s East 70th Street library.

VNSNY’s 2015 Benefit Dinner, which raised more than $1 million for our Children & Family Services, honored longtime VNSNY Board Member Andrew Schiff and the VNSNY Volunteers. From left to right: Board Chair John Rafferty, Board Member Andrew Schiff, VNSNY Volunteer Council First VP Patricia Ewert, emcee Shiba Russell, and VNSNY CEO Guy Sansone.
VNSNY provided care to more than 665 patients who were over 100 years old.

More than 42% of our patients spoke languages other than English.

Hospitals were the largest single source of referrals for VNSNY.

Heart disease, diabetes, cancer and wounds were among the most frequent diagnoses of our patients.
As you’ve seen in the preceding pages, many of VNSNY’s Charitable Care and Community Benefit programs and services are made possible in large part by contributions from people like you. With your help, we will continue to provide essential care for thousands of vulnerable children, adults, and families. Here are some of the ways you can help improve the lives of these underserved New Yorkers:

Attend or contribute to a fundraising event. Our annual fall benefit dinner (a black-tie dinner-dance to raise funds for our Children and Family Services), our annual Golf Classic (a springtime event to raise funds for our Nurse-Family Partnership Program), our intimate Food for Thought Cocktails (which raise funds for our Hospice Program), and our volunteer events all allow our friends to either attend or contribute to a special fundraising event.

For information, please contact John Billeci, Director of Special Events and Individual Giving, at 212-609-1565 or jbilbeci@vnsny.org.

Join the VNSNY Leadership Council. This group, made up of donors who have each given a total of $1,250 or more in a calendar year (exclusive of planned gifts and special event tickets), offers an opportunity to become closely involved with VNSNY as a mission-driven organization, with benefits that include invitations to receptions, special events, and educational programs; reserved VIP seating for our Amazing Lives Lecture Series; and access to the Friends Care Center that include invitations to receptions, special events, and access to the Friends Care Center. Here are some of the ways you can help improve the lives of these underserved New Yorkers:

Make Memorial or Tribute Gifts that allow you to leave a lasting and meaningful legacy in honor of a loved one or a special VNSNY staff member or home health aide.

Become a member of the Lilian Wald Heritage Society by making a planned gift to ensure that VNSNY’s outstanding care is available to support generations to come. Make VNSNY part of your legacy with a planned gift, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), a gift of Retirement Assets (such as an IRA), or a Bequest through your Will to join the Society so we can thank you for your thoughtful gift today. Planned Gifts may increase income, generate estate-planning advantages, or provide tax benefits now, while supporting VNSNY’s charitable mission far into the future.

Donate Appreciated Securities that you have owned for more than one year and receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities on the day of transfer to VNSNY.

You can use the enclosed gift envelope to make your gift now, or make an online donation at vnsny.org/donateonline.

For more information about donating to VNSNY, please call our Development Office at 212-609-1525.

Thank you! Your generous support helps VNSNY provide the most skilled and compassionate health care to all New Yorkers, regardless of circumstance. We are grateful to you for making this possible.

Make General Contributions that will help VNSNY continue its nearly 125-year charitable care mission to provide the best quality home- and community-based health care to all New Yorkers, regardless of circumstance.

Make Memorial or Tribute Gifts that allow you to leave a lasting and meaningful legacy in honor of a loved one or a special VNSNY staff member or home health aide.

Become a member of the Lilian Wald Heritage Society by making a planned gift to ensure that VNSNY’s outstanding care is available to support generations to come. Make VNSNY part of your legacy with a planned gift, such as a Charitable Gift Annuity (CGA), a gift of Retirement Assets (such as an IRA), or a Bequest through your Will to join the Society so we can thank you for your thoughtful gift today. Planned Gifts may increase income, generate estate-planning advantages, or provide tax benefits now, while supporting VNSNY’s charitable mission far into the future.

Donate Appreciated Securities that you have owned for more than one year and receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the securities on the day of transfer to VNSNY.

You can use the enclosed gift envelope to make your gift now, or make an online donation at vnsny.org/donateonline.

For more information about donating to VNSNY, please call our Development Office at 212-609-1525.

Thank you! Your generous support helps VNSNY provide the most skilled and compassionate health care to all New Yorkers, regardless of circumstance. We are grateful to you for making this possible.

2015 Donors

Individuals, foundations and corporations gave generously to the Visiting Nurse Service of New York in 2015. We deeply appreciate the caring that these gifts represent. They are critically important to our charitable care mission.

$500,000 and above
Robin Hood
$100,000 - $499,999
Overdeck Family Foundation
Louis Papello
Andrew N. Schiff, MD
Tiger Foundation
$50,000 - $99,999
Cushman & Wakefield, Inc./Tara Stacom
The Irma T. Hinchl Trust
Ruth and David Levine
Robert B. Menschel
The Ambrose Monell Foundation
Bernard Posner
The Beatrice Reinfield Foundation
Phyllis and Howard Schwartz
Philanthropic Fund
$25,000 - $49,999
Alavez & Marsal Healthcare Industry Group, LLC
Anonymous
The Y.C. Hu/Helen and Michael Chang Foundation
The John Canary Foundation for Ethics & Philosophy in Medicine
Andreas C. Dracopoulos
The Elkes Foundation
Empire BlueCross BlueShield
Epstein Teicher Philanthropies
Charles A. Feintraub Foundation, Inc.
Peter H. Gleason
The John A. Hartford Foundation, Inc.
Hugoton Foundation
Robert M. Kaufman, Esq.
The Randi & Clifford Lane Foundation
The Lucius N. Littauer Foundation
The Millbank Foundation
Premier Home Health Care Services, Inc.
Lisa and David T. Schiff/The Schiff Foundation
Select Equity Group Foundation
The Walsky Family Foundation
$10,000 - $24,999
S Penn Plaza LLC
Richard Aberson/Louis and Anne Aberson Foundation
Academy PA
Alliance For Health, Inc.
Anonymous (3)
Margaret and Alexander Bancroft
John C. Burton
Gibert & Ildiko Butler Family Foundation
Cardiavaler, Wickersham & Taft LLP
Jacques & Em Cohnen
Julie and Bob Daum
BNG/Will Survivor Trust Fund/
Isabel Davis
Dewey Pegeo & Kramarsky LLP
Joseph and Pamela Donner
Edith and Robert DuPuy
The Duurt Organization
Joan and Bob Eaton
Anne and Joel Ehrenkranz
Bush and George Feinhighousers’ The Feinhighouser Foundation
GNVHA Ventures, Inc.
Mary W. Harriman Foundation
Mary R. (Nina) Henderson and
Roger J. Branson, MD
Constance Hillman
Hospital for Special Surgery
Isabella Genasic Center
Jamestown/1250 Broadway
Barbara and Donald Jonas/Jonas Center
for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare
Charles S. Keene Foundation
The Marion E. Kemworthy - Sarah H. Swift Foundation
Leonard A. Lauder
Yoko Ono Lennon
Art Lindensauer
LML, Inc.
Nancy and Alan N. Locker
Tom and Elizabeth Mao
The Miller Foundation
Phyllis and Ethel Mills
The Mount Sinai Hospital
Margaret Neimeth
New York-Presbyterian Hospital and
Healthcare System
New York Foundation for Eldercare
The National Society for the Relief of
Waifs and Orphans of Medical Men
Julie and Russell Patterson, Jr
Valerie and Jeffrey Peltier
People Care Incorporated
Premier Touch Home Care
Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Polchheimer III
Pine Tree Foundation of New York/Sylvia Tenenbaum
Presidio
Emily and John Rafferty
Ropes & Gray LLP
Rosenblum Newfield LLC
Jall and Susan Rudin
Sandata Technologies LLC
Lisa and Peter Schiff
The Marilyn M. Simpson Charitable Trust
SL Green Realty Corp.
Solon E. Summerfield Foundation, Inc.
Jack and Susan Rudin
People Care Incorporated
Thompson Family Foundation, Inc.
TMG Health, Inc.
Verizon Wireless
Frank and Diane Vigilante
Wixtong
Wise Hospice Options

As you’ve seen in the preceding pages, many of VNSNY’s Charitable Care and Community Benefit programs and services are made possible in large part by contributions from people like you. With your help, we will continue to provide essential care for thousands of vulnerable children, adults, and families. Here are some of the ways you can help improve the lives of these underserved New Yorkers:

Attend or contribute to a fundraising event. Our annual fall benefit dinner (a black-tie dinner-dance to raise funds for our Children and Family Services), our annual Golf Classic (a springtime event to raise funds for our Nurse-Family Partnership Program), our intimate Food for Thought Cocktails (which raise funds for our Hospice Program), and our volunteer events all allow our friends to either attend or contribute to a special fundraising event.

For information, please contact John Billeci, Director of Special Events and Individual Giving, at 212-609-1565 or jbilbeci@vnsny.org.

Join the VNSNY Leadership Council. This group, made up of donors who have each given a total of $1,250 or more in a calendar year (exclusive of planned gifts and special event tickets), offers an opportunity to become closely involved with VNSNY as a mission-driven organization, with benefits that include invitations to receptions, special events, and educational programs; reserved VIP seating for our Amazing Lives Lecture Series; and access to the Friends Care Center Phone Line, in case you or a loved one are ever in need of VNSNY services.

Make General Contributions that will help VNSNY continue its nearly 125-year charitable care mission to provide the best quality home- and community-based health care to all New Yorkers, regardless of circumstance.
The NFP program produces multigenerational change. The mom or family becomes self-sufficient, and that self-sufficiency will be transferred to future generations. The mothers also share what they learn with friends, relatives, and other women in their community. The impact is exponential.

— CAROL ODNOHA, RN, BSN, MPA, DIRECTOR, VNSNY NURSE-FAMILY PARTNERSHIP

"Our teams strive to help people achieve a good death—dying as they have lived, surrounded by family and friends and things they love; being in as much control as possible over their environment, their choices and their comfort level, and having a chance to say a proper goodbye."

— ROSEMARY BAUGHN, RN, MSN, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE CARE
These seniors have been here for many years, and everything they need is right here—their friends, a cup of coffee from the bakery downstairs, ingredients for their cooking. But as they age and their mobility decreases, they can—

— HING-LIN (HELEN) SIT, MANAGER OF THE CHINATOWN NNORC

Our fathers are not only reuniting with their children but also developing healthier relationships with their children’s mothers and going on full-time jobs. I’ve seen how much fathers influence their families and community through their actions and the example they set.

— DEVON BANDISON, DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN SERVICES, COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
Our research is aimed at developing and testing new ways of providing home care in order to achieve high quality, cost-effective care. One of our main goals is to get new findings into the hands of VNSNY's clinical staff quickly, so we can start improving care right away.

— KATHRYN BOWLES, PHD, RN, VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF VNSNY'S CENTER FOR HOME CARE POLICY & RESEARCH, VAN AMERINGEN PROFESSOR OF NURSING EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF NURSING

Our Family Support Team provides vital home care to the most vulnerable New Yorkers with HIV/AIDS, particularly women of color and undocumented residents. They have very little contact with the healthcare system and would most likely fall through the cracks if we were not able to meet them and help them in their homes.

— ED MURPHY, MANAGER, CONTRACT GRANT PROGRAM, HIV/AIDS FAMILY SUPPORT TEAM
“Maternity Newborn and Pediatrics really underscores our commitment to weaving a safety net for New York’s most vulnerable. Through expert team care for families facing very difficult challenges, we are extending the work Lillian Wald began 120 years ago with families in the tenements of the Lower East Side.”

— SUSAN NORTHOWER, SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF INTAKE AND PATIENT CARE SERVICES

“The support of our volunteers has never been more important, whether they’re assisting in VNSNY’s day-to-day operations or helping our staff maximize the patient experience. They are vital to VNSNY’s unique capacity for creativity, selfless work and dedication to our mission.”

— MICHAEL AMBROSINI, DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE COMMUNITY RELATIONS/VOLUNTEER PROGRAM SERVICES
2015 Leadership Council

VNSNY’s Leadership Council provides philanthropic support for our many charitable initiatives and recognizes our generous individual donors who contribute a minimum annual contribution of $1,250 to VNSNY each year. Since the Leadership Council was founded in 2012, together members have contributed millions of dollars to VNSNY. This support helps us advance our critically important mission to deliver expert and compassionate care to New Yorkers in need.

 Directors & Committee Members

VNSNY Board of Directors
John P. Rafferty, Chair
Margaret A. Bancroft
Douglas D. Broadwater
Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick
Robert C. Daum
E. Mary Davidson
Jose M. de Lasa
Eugenie Doyle, MD
Edith M. Dupuy
Sarah L. Eames
Anne B. Ehrenkrantz, PhD
Peter H. Gleason
Betsy J. Goldbaum

Emeritus Directors
John Gordon
Claire M. Fagin, PhD, RN, FAAN
Alice C. Frelinghuysen
Artallah Kappas, MD
Madhy Mezey, EdD, RN, FAAN

Subsidiary Boards

VNSNY CHOICE/VNS CHOICE Community Care
Andrew N. Schiff, MD, Chair
Robert C. Daum
Betty M. Gross
Mary R. (Nina) Henderson
Peter L. Hutchings

VNS Continuing Care Development Corporation
John P. Rafferty, Chair
Phyllis J. Mills, BSN, RN

As of June 28, 2016
VNSNY Home Care and Partners in Care
Anne B. Ehrenkranz, PhD, Chair
Margaret A. Bancroft
Douglas D. Broadwater
Sarah L. Eames
Betsy F. Gotbaum

VNSNY Hospice & Palliative Care
Frank S. Vigilante, Chair
Nessa Coyle
E. Mary C. Davidson, Vice Chair and Secretary
Jose M. de Lasa
Edith M. Dupuy
Peter H. Gleason
Robert M. Kaufman
Diane Meier
Margaret Neimeth
Corinne H. Rieder, EdD, Treasurer

VNSNY Standing Committees (As required by VNSNY bylaws):

Executive Committee
John P. Rafferty, Chair
Robert C. Daum
Anne B. Ehrenkranz, PhD
Andrew N. Schiff, MD
Albert L. Ssu, MD, MSPH

Audit Committee
Arthur Lindenaauer, Chair
Douglas D. Broadwater
Carmen Beauchamp Ciparick
Peter L. Hutchings
Robert M. Kaufman
John P. Rafferty, ex officio

Finance Committee
Robert C. Daum, Chair
Margaret A. Bancroft
Mary R. (Nina) Henderson
Carl H. Pfozheimer, Ill
John P. Rafferty, ex officio
Frank S. Vigilante

Governance Committee
Robert M. Kaufman, Chair
Jose M. de Lasa
Mary R. (Nina) Henderson
Phyllis J. Mills, BSN, RN
John P. Rafferty, ex officio
Corinne H. Rieder, EdD

Directors & Committee Members

Other VNSNY Committees

Development Committee
Phyllis J. Mills, BSN, RN, Chair
Douglas D. Broadwater
E. Mary C. Davidson, Vice Chair
Anne B. Ehrenkranz, PhD
Betsy F. Gotbaum
Mary R. (Nina) Henderson
Robert M. Kaufman
John P. Rafferty, ex officio
Corinne H. Rieder, EdD
Frank S. Vigilante

Executive Compensation Committee
Andrew N. Schiff, MD, Chair
Douglas D. Broadwater
Robert M. Kaufman
John P. Rafferty

Investment Subcommittee
Andrew N. Schiff, MD, Chair
Margaret A. Bancroft
John P. Rafferty, ex officio
Corinne H. Rieder, EdD

Quality Committee
Eugenie Doyle, MD
Kimberly S. Glassman, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN
Stephanie Goldberg, RN, MSN, NEA-BC
John R. Gunn
Peter L. Hutchings
Alan M. Levin
Eileen Sullivan-Max, PhD, RN, FAAN
Phyllis J. Mills, BSN, RN
John P. Rafferty, ex officio
Albert L. Ssu, MD, MSPH

Advisory Committees/Boards

Research Advisory Committee
Margaret A. Bancroft, Chair
Eugenie Doyle, MD
Phyllis J. Mills, BSN, RN
Alvin I. Mushlin, MD, ScM
John P. Rafferty, ex officio
Albert L. Ssu, MD, MSPH

Community Mental Health Advisory Committee
Stanley Bone, MD, Chair
Sheila H. Akabas, PhD
Wendy Brennan
E. Mary C. Davidson
Edith DuPuy
Phyllis J. Mills, BSN, RN
Anand Pandya, MD
John P. Rafferty, ex officio
Paula L. Root
Phillip A. Saperia

As of June 28, 2016
In 2015, VNSNY provided care to more than 151,125 New Yorkers. Not all of this care was covered by government reimbursements or private insurance plans. Thanks in part to our many individual donors and institutional funders, however, we were able to combine philanthropic support with a substantial commitment from VNSNY itself to bridge this funding gap.

If you’re currently a VNSNY donor, we hope we can continue to count on your support. If you are not yet a donor, we hope that you’ll consider giving to VNSNY.