

Stratford VNA: Serving the Community Since 1919

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by Kristen Archibald

Located in Stratford, Connecticut, **Stratford VNA** is a full-service home health agency which offers a wide range of programs to the community since 1919.

The agency cares for patients in Stratford, Bridgeport, Fairfield, Westport, Milford, Orange, West Haven, Easton, Trumbull, Monroe, Newtown and the Valley providing Professional Nursing, Homemaker-Home Health Aide, Medical Social Work, Dietitian, Physical, Occupational and Speech Therapies, Psychiatric Nursing, Cardiac/High Risk Program, Home Telemonitoring, Joint Program, Wound Care Program and numerous other services to those in their care.

“We never forget why we are here,” says President & CEO Mary Therien. “For the patient.”

Providing superior care is not without its challenges. Keeping staff engaged in the changing regulations as the agency continues to provide cost-effective, efficient care with less reimbursement can be a struggle, but does not detract from the ultimate goal of providing quality services.

“We always act in the best interest of our patients,” says Therien. “Even when reimbursement is elusive.”

But quality care isn't the only service Stratford VNA gives to the community. The agency holds flu and blood pressure clinics, outreach education and mentorship programs in addition to sponsoring a nursing scholarship to three local high schools, supporting the American Cancer Society Daffodil Days and Making Strides for Breast Cancer Walk. Most recently, a management staff member of the agency helped to staff the Stratford Emergency Medical Response Team shelter during Hurricane Irene.



Stratford VNA Nurses have been serving the community since 1919.

In 2011, the agency was ranked first in the Workplace Dynamics Survey of the Top Workplaces in Fairfield, Litchfield and New Haven Counties and has been recognized in several quality improvement initiatives aimed at preventing re-hospitalizations and improving transitions of care. Stratford VNA was also listed among the Top 500 in the 2011 Homecare Elite.

Keeping patients independent, self-managed and strong at home is one of the agency's most important goals. A 2010 study by the University of Connecticut indicated more than 80% of state residents prefer to be surrounded by the comforts of home over institutionalized settings.

"Patients often make care choices based on the economy and socioeconomic factors," says Therien. "But the level of dedication displayed throughout the organization is unmatched, no matter what each individual's role may be."