

You Make Meaningful Moments *Possible*



SUMMER 2019

A Legacy of Love

Get to know: *Vicky L'Hommedieu*
Why we give
2018 Annual Report

Visiting Nurse provides compassionate care to alleviate suffering and ensure quality of life for those affected by serious illness. We care for those who go on living as well. Our grief services are available at no charge for any adult who has experienced the loss of a loved one. We proudly serve these Indiana counties: Adams, Allen, DeKalb, Huntington, Noble, Wabash, Wells and Whitley.

POSITIVE LIFESTYLE
Life is Good
ART OF OPTIMISM



visiting nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

www.VNFW.org

Leaving a Legacy of Love

You'd think that being diagnosed with a fatal illness like ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, would make anyone depressed, angry and hopeless. While those reactions are completely normal, don't tell that to Stan Williams.

The North Manchester man is battling his disease with three overarching lessons:

1. Our worldview determines our outlook.
2. We must define our battles. We must not let them define us.
3. We must never let anyone just assume that you love them.

Stan shared these three lessons with Visiting Nurse staff during the annual Employee Appreciation Party in June, and his inspiring words and boundless enthusiasm were well received. Stan and his wife, Lisa, said they were so grateful for their Visiting Nurse care team, which has allowed Stan to stay in his home surrounded by his loved ones as his disease progresses. That support comes from people like you, who help Visiting Nurse expand care across the region, ensuring that no one who needs our specialized hospice and palliative care goes without.

The Williams chose Visiting Nurse to provide their care because of our long-standing reputation in the region. "When Lisa and I began to talk with hospice companies, we very quickly found the difference between Visiting Nurse and everyone else," Stan said.

Those differences include our staff's compassion, and "greatness" in the work we do every day, he said.

"You've seen the battles that everyone faces," Stan told the staff. "When a battle comes your way, you are going to rise above it and not let that battle define you."

Providing care for patients like Stan includes helping with bathing, feeding and dressing – activities that most of us take for granted because we can do them ourselves. ALS, also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and the spinal cord. Stan's symptoms began in 2016, after he began experiencing leg weakness and foot drop. He began treatment at an ALS clinic in Indianapolis before choosing to cease treatment and begin hospice care.

"I have never asked 'Why me, God?' If I was to ask that, I'd have to ask why not someone else," he said. "The question is not why me, but what now? How shall I live?"



Stan and Lisa and their two sons, Kyle and Alec, choose to live with a positive attitude.

"I find that life is good. Life is not perfect. Life is not easy. But life is good. I may have ALS, but ALS doesn't have me," he said. "Of course, I have some down times and painful moments. My 61 years are much greater than my ALS – much more joyful, fulfilling and blessed."

Choosing to receive hospice service from Visiting Nurse means that Stan and Lisa have time together, to be a family while Visiting Nurse supports Stan in his illness. Their meaningful moments include time with their sons, strengthening their family bonds. His therapies with Visiting Nurse include music therapy with Visiting Nurse's Music Therapist, Emily Paar. Music therapy allows Stan time with his children and grandchildren, making musical memories that will live on in the hearts of those who love Stan. Music therapy is a service Visiting Nurse can provide because of the generous donations of people just like you.

One thing Stan wants this family to know is how much he loves all of them.

"You must not ever let anyone assume you love them," he said. "Your family dynamic will be rich and strong if you say four things: Please forgive me, I forgive you, thank you and I love you. We decided our sons would know we love them. There's not three more powerful words than I love you. Say these words often and without restraint. We can never say it too much. These three words will heal broken hearts. They lift our spirits when we say them and they lift the spirits of those we say them to."

Stan and his family know his disease will claim his life. He's a man in a race against ALS, he says, "from now until muscle death," but he's planning on living every moment in love. He wants his last mile of that marathon to be his best.

"Let's all build in ourselves an intense urgency to love, live, laugh, share and leave a legacy in the hearts of those you leave behind."



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Letter from the CEO



Dear friends –

When I look at the efforts of our staff to help people navigate the often-emotional end of life, I remain so thankful for the donors who help make sure that no one in our community goes without the compassionate care Visiting Nurse has been known for throughout its 131 years of service to the northeast Indiana community. We have been supported in our work by donors like you ever since our founding in 1888 – from the small children who put on plays in 1902 and raised \$2.49 to give to

Visiting Nurse's first paid nurse, Josephine Shatzer – to today's donations that come from grateful family members, area corporations and foundations.

We had an exciting year in 2018. Some of the highlights include:

- Opening our second inpatient unit, Hospice Home Northeast, located on the campus of Golden Years Homestead
- Being named the region's Best Hospice by Fort Wayne Newspapers' Readers Choice
- Experiencing a 127-percent increase in grief clients served since 2016
- Adding Nurse Practitioner Fritz Nodine to our medical provider team
- Establishing a speaker series focused on the opioid crisis in our community to connect people with resources that are available in northeast Indiana

We quite literally could not do what we do without your help. In 2018, your donations meant Visiting Nurse was able to provide more than \$230,000 in charity care for patients with nowhere else to turn for care at the end of life. Your support plugs the holes in the healthcare social safety nets and helps us to ensure that no one goes without Visiting Nurse's compassionate care to alleviate suffering.

Your generous donations mean that we are able to provide meaningful moments for both patients and families.

We are ever grateful to those who support Visiting Nurse. You can also support us by liking and following us on social media such as Facebook and LinkedIn. Please join us Sept. 19 at the 11th Annual A Toast to Life, and on Nov. 24 at the 34th Annual Holiday Memorial Tree Lighting, this year at a new location, the University of Saint Francis Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center in downtown Fort Wayne. Thank you for giving of your time and your financial support to Visiting Nurse. Our staff and volunteers are the hands, but you are the heart that makes Visiting Nurse possible.

Serving with you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Friedel". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional but personal style.

Leslie Friedel, CEO

2018 Annual Report

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

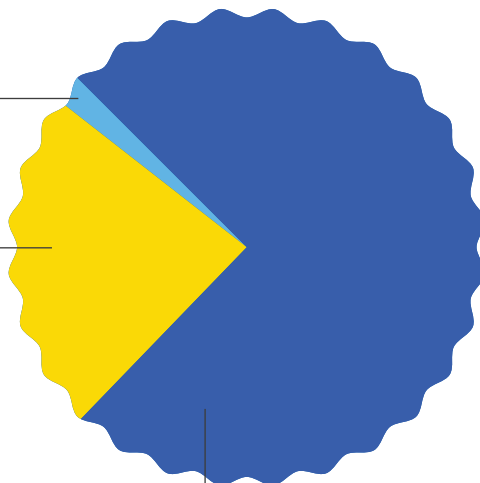
Expenses

Total: \$14,602,669

Fundraising 3%
\$467,046

Administrative Expenses 21%
\$3,095,942

Functional Expenses 76%
\$11,039,681



Patient Services Revenue

Charity & Contractual Allowances - (\$1,153,934)

Investment Gains, Contributions
And Other - (\$86,565)

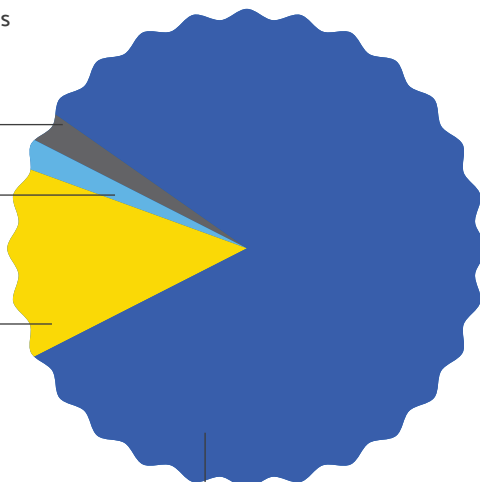
Total: \$13,150,969

Medicaid 2%
\$330,633

Individual & Other 2%
\$253,762

Insurance 13%
\$1,905,181

Medicare 83%
\$11,901,892



Assets

Cash \$1,501,620

Investments \$10,185,255

Accounts Receivable \$1,976,538

Prepaid Expenses \$88,839

Contributions Receivable \$2,000

Property and Equipment \$5,883,094

Total Assets **\$19,637,346**

Liabilities

Accounts Payable \$1,071,366

Accrued Expenses \$179,338

Total Liabilities **\$1,250,704**

Net Assets

Unrestricted \$18,287,356

Temporarily Restricted \$73,286

Permanently Restricted \$26,000

Total Net Assets **\$18,386,642**

Functional Expenses

Hospice at Home \$6,823,287

Inpatient Facilities \$2,965,526

Palliative Care \$1,250,868

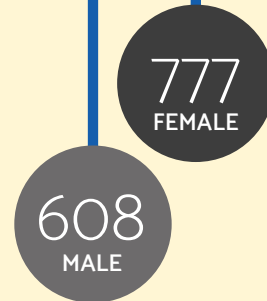
Total **\$11,039,681**

Our Mission: Visiting Nurse provides compassionate care to alleviate suffering and ensure quality of life for those affected by serious illness.



visiting nurse

2018 Patient Data



148
Total number
of volunteers

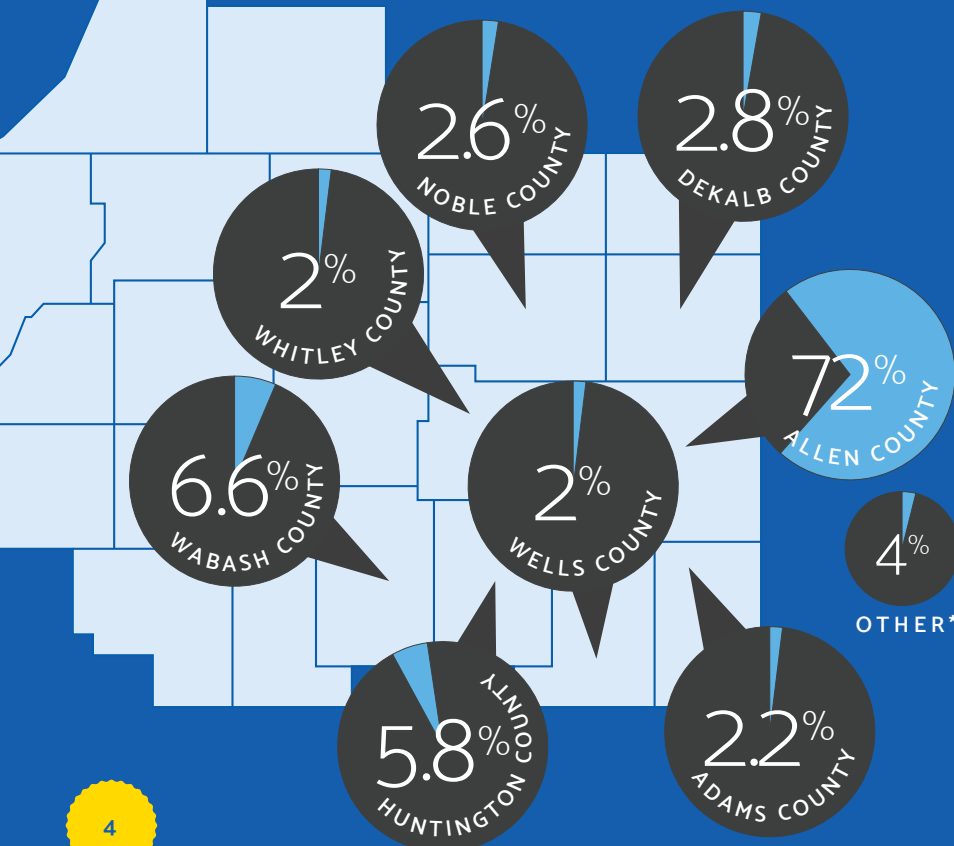


10,959
Total number of volunteer hours



Visiting Nurse Patients by County

*Other is made up of those individuals who come to Hospice Home who have a primary residence outside of our service area.



Most popular songs requested by
PATIENTS AND FAMILIES

Amazing Grace

**You Are My
Sunshine**

**Somewhere
Over the Rainbow**





HOSPICE PATIENTS WERE

Veterans of the Armed Services

Visiting Nurse is a partner of the We Honor Veterans program with the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization and the United States Department of Veteran Affairs. Our goal is to:

- Thank veterans for their service to our country
- Provide veterans with an opportunity to tell their stories
- Respect their service, their feelings and suggestions they may offer for increasing access to care for veterans
- Show appreciation for the families of veterans and support them as they support their loved one
- Link veterans and their families to services and benefits available to them

1 in 4 Dying Americans is a Veteran

Number of Patient Visits



AROUND THE WORLD

The circumference of the Earth is
24,901 miles.

In 2018, our clinical staff traveled in excess of 404,119 miles to see our patients in their homes, nursing facilities and hospitals -

Equivalent to **16** Trips Around the World!



10

QUESTIONS

GET TO KNOW

Vicky L'Hommédieu

Intake and Admissions Nurse

1 What do you do at Visiting Nurse?

I've been working in the Intake department for the past 2 years. Over the past 16 years, I've been able to work in other departments as well, including case management, hospice home, phone nurse and the admissions department.

2 Why did you choose to come to Visiting Nurse?

As a new graduate back in 1996, I applied for a position at VN, but I wasn't hired at the time because I didn't have enough nursing experience. Years went by and I eventually reapplied and was finally hired and joined the Visiting Nurse family.

3 What are your hobbies?

I enjoy planning and cooking for my family dinner parties. I love it when my side of the family and my husband's side of family get together at our home for an evening of good food and lots of laughs.

4 What does hospice mean to you?

It means being there for someone who is at the most difficult time in their life and caring for and supporting our patient and the loved ones who are going to be left behind. Being a hospice nurse isn't just a job, it's a calling.

5 If you could have lunch with anyone, living or dead, who would it be and why?

I would love to have lunch with our oldest son, Christopher. Chris is in the Marine Corps and has been overseas for the past several months. I haven't hugged him for almost a year and miss him very much.

6 What do you wish people knew about Visiting Nurse?

Visiting Nurse is so much more than beautiful buildings. Inside, you will find nurses, aides, social workers, chaplains, grief support and a lot of staff "behind the scene" like no other. We sincerely care about our patients and families. What makes us unique is the fact that no matter what, there is always someone available to help any way possible.

7 What's your superpower?

I asked a couple of coworkers what they thought was my superpower. After all, I never thought of myself as having a "superpower." They pretty much simultaneously said "you're very motherly." This wasn't the first time and I'm sure it won't be the last time they've told me this.

8 What have your Visiting Nurse patients/families taught you?

They've taught me to try to take it one day at a time, to not stress over things I have no control over and to not take life for granted.

9 What are you most grateful for in life?

I'm most grateful for the love of my family. My family is the most important part of my life and without them, I don't know where I would be.

10 What's your guilty pleasure?

Pinot and Pugs. We also have four other dogs who range from a Doberman to a miniature Yorkie. We have a total of eight dogs, all but three are rescues, and we also have two rescue cats, one of which is Vinnie, who used to be our hospice kitten at Visiting Nurse.

Mark your calendars

**THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

VISITING NURSE
PRESENTS

11TH ANNUAL

**A TOAST To
LIFE**

CLUB SODA • 5:30 pm

We're changing things up this year, with a signature cocktail, wine and beer available to match with a stunning five course meal prepared by the fabulous chefs of Club Soda. Call (260) 435-3207 for ticket information.

<https://TTL2019.givesmart.com>

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday,
November 24, 2019**

34TH ANNUAL

***Holiday Memorial
Tree Service and
Tree Lighting***

NEW LOCATION!
University of Saint Francis' Robert Goldstine
Performing Arts Center, 431 West Berry Street

Join families as we celebrate those who have gone before with songs, a speaker and the lighting of the Holiday Memorial Tree.

To learn more about becoming a corporate sponsor of Visiting Nurse events, please contact Mary Shankster at (260) 435-3211. We would love to partner with you!

**WITH
Your Help**

we can care for the seriously ill and their families.

Donate today!

To ensure that no one goes without the services they need, simply fill out and return the attached donation envelope. You can also donate with a credit card online: www.vnfw.org/donate-now



Why we give:

June Savoie and Doty Latuszek

We are pleased to support Visiting Nurse of Fort Wayne, and we feel confident the dollars donated will be used to help the greatest number of people possible. Prior to living in Fort Wayne, we had several family members pass from cancer. The access to hospice care, palliative care, and grief support would have helped my family immensely. We are pleased to know the range of care offered by Visiting Nurse.



DAY OF *Remembrance*

The Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center

WE LOVED THEM THEN, WE LOVE THEM NOW, WE'LL LOVE THEM STILL

Join the staff of Visiting Nurse's
Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center

Saturday, September 21, 2019

from 2:30-7 p.m. at Parkview Field

PROGRAM FROM 3-4 P.M.

This family-friendly event will feature speakers, games, and a special Memorial Wall where you can write messages to those who have passed on.

Call (260) 435-3261 for more information.



ONGOING GRIEF SUPPORT GROUPS

Awareness that grief may affect every aspect of our life is the beginning of our healing process. These programs, focusing on grief and loss, are designed to provide any adult who has suffered the death of a loved one an opportunity to explore, learn and feel supported in a safe environment. Please contact the Grief Support Team at (260) 435-3261 for more information.

These community programs are available at no charge and hospice involvement is not required. For information on any of these programs or individual grief support please call (260) 435-3261 or visit our website: www.vnfw.org.

Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

Every Monday evening

7-8:30 p.m.

Ivy Tech's Aviation Center at Smith Field
405 West Cook Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Anticipatory Grief Support Group

Support for those in anticipation of a death

2nd Monday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Compassionate Friends

For grieving parents, grandparents & siblings

1st Tuesday of each month

7 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St.,
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

and the following Thursday of each month
7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center, 5920
Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Recent Loss Grief Support

For those who have lost a loved one
within 2 years

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

We the Living

Support for those who have lost a loved one
to suicide

2nd Wednesday of each month

7-9 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Healing Pathway Support Group

For those who lost a loved one to
substance abuse

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center, 5920
Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Grief Support for Women

After the death of a spouse or significant other

2nd & 4th Wednesday of each month

2-3:30 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Pet Loss Support Group

For those who are grieving the loss of a pet

3rd Wednesday of each month

6-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Listening Session Support Group

1st & 3rd Thursday of each month

11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Renaissance Pointe YMCA
2323 Bowser Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46803

Men's Group Grief Support

After the death of a spouse or significant other

1st & 3rd Tuesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

Peggy F. Murphy Community Grief Center
5920 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Auburn Grief Support Group

For any loss due to death

2nd & 4th Tuesday of each month

5:30-7 p.m.

First Christian Church
910 N. Indiana Ave., Auburn, IN 46706



Visiting Nurse

You Make Meaningful Moments Possible



We provide compassionate care to all persons, regardless of race, age, creed, sexual orientation, disability or nationality. Translation services available. To make a difference in the lives of Visiting Nurse patients and families, consider making a gift to the Visiting Nurse Foundation. Please visit www.vnfw.org/donate-now or call (260) 435-3222.



Visiting Nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

5910 Homestead Road, Fort Wayne, IN 46814

Phone: 260-435-3222 • Toll-Free: 800-288-4111

Nursing and Patient Referral Line: 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

Administrative Office Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday

Please let us know if you would like to be removed from our mailing list. Call 260-435-3222 or 800-288-4111
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www.VNFW.org

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We Honor Veterans

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