

## Family Care

Family Care is a new program coming to Winnebago, Fond du Lac and Manitowoc counties over the next year. This is a state-funded, but locally managed program intended to provide options for the frail elderly and those with physical or developmental disabilities.



This program will replace current county funded programs such as COP or CIP. The three counties have joined together to offer a program that will provide comprehensive and flexible long term care support for those who meet the criteria, including demonstrating financial need. Implementation of the program for Winnebago County is targeted for July 2010. Over the next several months we will share information on the intended goals, structure and roll-out of the program.

## Employees and Staffing



One of the questions we are frequently asked when people inquire about our facility is about our staffing and employees. Who do we

employ and how many? Resident Assistants (RAs) are our primary caregivers for the Independent Plus (RCAC) and the Assisted Living residents. RAs are either Certified Nursing Assistants (CNAs) or individuals who have completed a state approved training program. For the Independent Plus there is one RA from 6a-9p available for assistance.

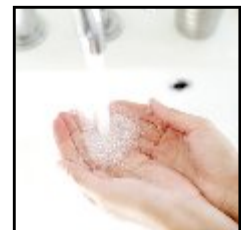
In the Assisted Living: for memory care residents

there is 1 RA for approximately every 4-5 residents on the day and evening shift and 1 RA for 5-8 residents at night. In Sapphire (our clear of mind/ frail elderly) court, we have 1 RA for 7-8 residents on days and evenings. There is a Shift Manager available around the clock to provide additional assistance when needed. There are occasions when we may have more or less staff than detailed but this is more dependent on the current occupancy and the needs of the residents.

We are proud of the staff who work at Valley VNA and the care they provide. The turnover rate for the last two quarters has been approximately 7% which is very low in this industry! Lower turnover helps to reduce costs but more importantly, provides consistency for residents.

## Flu Season is Just Around the Corner!

If you have visited lately, you may notice an increase in signage and availability of hand sanitizer at entrances and in resident rooms. We are in the process of making Personal Protective Equipment (gloves, masks, sanitizer, etc) more user friendly for residents, staff and visitors. Normal flu season typically begins mid-October and lasts until March/April.



The Novel A/H1N1 flu has been present throughout the summer, however this virus seems to be targeting the younger population. Next month we will go into more detail on the Policy and Procedure at Valley VNA in the event of a "flu" outbreak locally.



### Alzheimer's Association's Memory Walk 2009

Please join us in support of a good cause by walking the Memory Walk on Saturday, Sept. 19th at the Fox Cities Stadium. Walk on Valley VNA's team, organize your own team or volunteer. To learn more call Bill Mauthe (Valley VNA's Life Enrichment Coordinator) - 920-727-5544.

### Grandparents Day is September 13th!

The impetus for a National Grandparents Day originated with **Marian McQuade**, a housewife in Fayette County, West Virginia. Her primary motivation was to champion the cause of lonely elderly in nursing homes. She also hoped to persuade grandchildren to tap the wisdom and heritage their grandparents could provide. In 1978, President Jimmy Carter proclaimed that **National Grandparents Day** would be celebrated every year on the **first Sunday after Labor Day**.



### Special Visitors!

Big thanks to Katie Winkel, one of our employees, and her family for providing some great entertainment and education for our residents and staff! Katie brought a full size horse and a "mini" horse to visit, along with the family dog. They pulled up in the trailer in the back of the building and quite a few of our residents went out to observe, pet the animals and just enjoy the fun. A great time was had by all, thank you Katie!

