

In This Issue

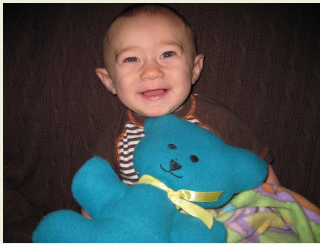
Volunteer Highlight

School Days...Happy Days

Adopt A Family this Holiday Season

Volunteer Highlight

Bears & Blankets



Hugged and to Be(ar) Hugged

Monday mornings will usually find members of **Excelsior Chapter #20, Order of the Eastern Star (OES)** working on Teddy Bears, receiving blankets, and burp cloths. Over the past few years, Excelsior OES has donated about 700 sets of the bear & blanket packs to MVNA for distribution to clients with new babies.

Nurses request these bears from Club 100 to use as a tool to demonstrate to the parents how to engage their children in play. The bear becomes an important "buddy" to our young clients.

Most of all, each bear is lovingly made. According to Bonnie McGinnis, of Excelsior OES, *"Every bear is pre-hugged before they are given away. It is our way of passing on the hug to the children."*

School Days...Happy Days for MVNA Clients!

The first day of school...

"Shauna* jumped up and down with excitement and squealed with delight at the sight of her first back pack", reported Nurse Jean*, about the reaction of a kindergarten-age MVNA client. "She didn't even need to open the well-supplied pack. Shauna just felt so special to get this donation." Anita*, her mother, struggling to cover basic food and housing needs, felt relieved that her daughter's school days were starting on the right path.

School environment provides stability...

"Without the help of some angels, my kids would have a difficult school start," explained Theresa*, a mother of four school-aged children. "Right now my housing situation is not stable, we are living in a shelter." It is important to Theresa to have her children remain at the urban private school. The "angels" donated funds to support the purchase of school uniforms, a requirement for attendance at the school. "The kids were so excited about their uniforms. It has truly given them more self-confidence about going to school." Theresa noted in her thank-you letter.

**Names are changed to protect privacy*

With support from Club 100, A Community of Caring...

Over a hundred children received help to prepare them for learning with donations of back packs, clothing, and snack bars. Our donors have put smiles on the faces of many children and their caring supported the parents' goal of academic achievement.

Thank you back to school donors: Caring Tree, MVNA Club 100 - Team 11, and Kathy Baer

Adopt-A-Family this Holiday Season

"You treated me like I was part of your family," writes Marie, an MVNA client in her 2008 holiday thank you note to her Adopt-A-Family sponsors.

Marie was one of the 517 individuals adopted for the 2008 holidays. Please consider sponsoring an MVNA family in 2009. Our nurses nominate the clients, who have prepared a modest wish list. The nurses deliver the gifts.

Past sponsors tell us their Adopt-A-Family experience was enjoyable and rewarding. MVNA sponsors are individuals, families, organizations, congregations or employee groups.

(Continued on Page 2)

What's New?

MVNA Club 100 is selling Herberger's Community Day Coupon Books as a fundraiser. The coupon books are \$5.00. Club 100 will keep 100% of the proceeds.

Our goal is to raise enough money for a month's supply of portable cribs.

Would you like to help?

Community Day is November 14. The books contain a coupon for \$10 off and six 20% off coupons (what a deal!).

If you are interested in purchasing a book or books or in selling to your friends, please contact Suzanne Chowen at chowens@mvna.org or 612-777-8460.

Flu Clinics

For information on our upcoming flu clinics, visit our website:

www.mvna.org

Donor's Corner \$10.00 or Less

We are in short supply of these items, which cost \$10.00 or less:

\$10.00 Walgreen's Pharmacy Cards

Diapers - Sizes:

Newborn, 5 & 6

Baby bottles, "sippy" cups, and rattles

If you would like to donate the above items or are interested in receiving a complete list of items \$10.00 or less, please contact Michelle Lichtig (lichtigm@mvna.org) 612-617-4658.

For our clients, these items make a difference that is priceless

Web Links

**Adopt A Family Donor
Sign-Up**

Our "adopted" households are families with children (family sizes can be large or small) and older adults (usually single-person households).

Call Michelle Lichtig at 612-617-4658, email club100request@mvna.org or **click on the Web Link on the bottom of this page** for more information or to sign up.

Please contact us by Wednesday, November 4. Every effort will be made to send out the client wish list by November 25. Gift drop off at the MVNA offices will be by Monday, December 14.

Did you know?

MVNA, a public health nursing agency, was established in 1902.

In 2008, MVNA touched the lives of almost 175,000 people with various public health services.

MVNA provided 152,779 flu shots statewide in 2008.

MVNA Family Health Department's Public Health Nurses and Family Health Aides served 5,585 clients (pregnant women, infants and children) in 2008.

MVNA Home Health Department's nurses, aides and homemakers served 1,478 clients (older adults) in 2008.

MVNA Club 100 - A Community of Caring is the volunteer support activity that links the 'direct philanthropy' of our donors to our clients. With the help of our donors and volunteers, Club 100 - A Community of Caring assisted 3,800 individuals in 2008.

Thank you volunteers and donors for all you do!



Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency

Michelle Lichtig
Community Relations Director
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Visit our engaging new website and meet those touched
by MVNA

www.mvna.org