

A Newsletter Connecting to MVNA

January/February 2009

*"Treasure the one who lightens the burden of anyone else."
Charles Dickens*

2008 Holiday Season...It's a wrap!



As community donors, you have been most generous in "creating" the holidays for our clients. You have made children's robes, quilts, hats, mittens; assembled bath kits, holiday food baskets; collected items for older adults such as blankets and nutritional drinks; conducted drives for developmental toys, diapers and books for our young clients. Many of you filled wish lists for our Adopt-A-Family program -- shopping and wrapping the gifts with generosity, as if you were doing this for your own families.

From our clients' thank you notes: *"Thank you for giving your hard-earned money towards buying presents for people who need it. You made my Christmas less stressful, thank you for making me feel special."* Leanne, age 18, mother of Tyler, 21 months. Leanne will be graduating from high school this year and is a good student. She has a strong interest in child development and seeks an enriched environment for her child to build his speech and other communication skills.

"I have been on medical leave so I didn't think that I'd be able to get anything for my children. You have given us immeasurable Christmas joy." Mae, age 39, mother of four children. Mae is recently divorced and with her ex-husband unemployed, he is no longer providing any support. The bottom fell out of her life when she was ordered by her doctor to quit working after the birth of her youngest child - now one year old. She hopes to regain her health and return to work.

And sometimes your gift of generosity is the last gift for our clients...MVNA nurse Pam writes to the holiday donor, **"Accept my gratitude on behalf of my client. You were so kind to give gifts during the holiday season. MVNA has served this delightful patient for several years, but she lost her battle with cancer five days after she received your gifts. You made a difference in her life, as there were many tears shed at the last nursing visit as she opened your gifts with joy."**

You have touched the lives and hearts of our clients and collectively we say, thank-you, a universal word of gratitude... *gracias* (Spanish), *ua tshag* (Hmong), *mahad-sanid* (Somali), *asante* (Swahili), *shukran* (Arabic) and *spasibo* (Russian).

Helping MVNA Clients in 2009

How you can help now: We need Similac Advance with Iron Baby Formula, Ensure Nutritional Drinks and \$20 Cub Food Cards

Our nurses' requests for very basic items have increased. These items include baby formula, food certificates and nutritional drinks for clients receiving treatment for cancer. Many of our clients string together several part-time jobs and have experienced job loss or reduced hours. Their money does not make it through the month to cover food costs.

How your group can help: We have prepared a list of items that cost \$15 or less that help clients overcome non-medical barriers. Many employee and community groups have conducted drives for MVNA to collect these items. If you are interested in a list of the most requested items that cost \$15 or less, please contact Michelle at lichtigm@mvna.org or call 612-617-4658.

With your help, as a group or an individual, we can remove barriers in the lives of our clients and help families through these difficult times.

Do you have old cell phones you are no longer using?

You probably have one or two sitting in a drawer right now. By donating phones, MVNA is able to earn credits through a program for free cell phones and limited airtime minutes. These are then given to our clients in need of phones. The phones are programmed to contact medical and social service providers. If you have cell phones you are no longer using, please consider giving them to MVNA or have a collection drive through your organization or at your workplace. Deliver or send the used phones to Michelle Lichtig, MVNA at the address below (telephone: 612-617-4658 or lichtigm@mvna.org). Thank you.

Volunteers/Donors - Hold the Date...April Shower - April 23

Dinner, silent auction, music and fun! The annual April Shower will be held on April 23 (5:30 to 7:30 p.m.). Hosted by MVNA Volunteers - Team 11 to honor all community volunteers and donors at the home of Wendy Bennett in Golden Valley. More information will follow in March.

MVNA Volunteer Services Vision

Bridging Barriers: Supporting clients' health and independence with community support to provide for non-medical needs.

Thank you for being a Minnesota Visiting Nurse Agency Donor or Volunteer!



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