AGENCY HEADLINES

HNA Home Health Ranks Among Top Providers Nationwide Since 2006

HNA Home Health was named once again to the top 25% of agencies in the country as a 2015 HomeCare Elite Top Agency. A continual focus on patients and high quality of care has allowed HNA Home Health to earn a position on the HomeCare Elite list each year since it began in 2006. HNA Home Health team is committed to providing the best quality of care with dignity and respect to every patient.

HNA Private Duty Home Care Repeats for Fourth Year with National Award

HNA Private Duty Home Care has earned Home Care Pulse’s “Best of Home Care” distinction for the fourth straight year and is one of only two non-medical home care providers in the area to be recognized. Recent surveys indicate that 92% of our Private Duty Home Care clients would recommend the care to others, compared with only 76% of clients nationally who would promote their respective home care provider.

New Agency Brand Debuts in Billboard Campaign

Have you seen it? HNA’s logo has been remodeled! Our new Home Nursing Agency brand blends Home Nursing Agency’s 48-year history of serving our community with the strength of UPMC to provide even better care for those we serve. This new brand debuted in a billboard campaign featuring our employees throughout our services areas. Home Nursing Agency is bringing world class care to your home!

Home Nursing Agency Announces Growth of Hospice Program, Rebranding as Family Hospice and Palliative Care

Home Nursing Agency is pleased to announce the growth of its hospice program and rebranding as Family Hospice and Palliative Care, Part of UPMC HNA.

Earlier this year, Family Hospice and Palliative Care, headquartered in Mount Lebanon, PA, was integrated into UPMC as part of Home Nursing Agency, expanding the combined service area for hospice care from 11 to 20 counties in Western and Central Pennsylvania. The combined program serves 4,000 patients annually and is the largest not-for-profit hospice provider in the Commonwealth.

Family Hospice and Palliative Care became one of Western Pennsylvania’s first hospice providers in 1980 and has a rich history of serving patients with life-limiting illnesses and their families, focusing on optimal quality of life for patients.

“Home Nursing Agency is a trusted provider of home health and hospice services in our region,” explains Phil Freeman, Home Nursing Agency President. “As our services have expanded through the decades, our focus and expertise on hospice and palliative care have grown stronger. Aligning our brand with Family Hospice offers the distinct opportunity to feature our commitment to this unique and tremendously important mission, across all of the geographies that we serve.”

As a program of Home Nursing Agency, Family Hospice will continue to serve patients with the same trusted level of care that has been offered in this region since 1983 when Home Nursing Agency became the first home health agency in Pennsylvania to be recognized. As part of the HNA continuum of care, our commitment to this unique and tremendously important mission, across all of the geographies that we serve.”

Contact us at:
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Pam Seasoltz, Director of Development
Email: development@homenursingagency.com
1.855.GIVE.HNA (1.855.448.3462)

Members Share the Past & Enjoy the Present
Bedford HNA Adult Day Services Helps Patient Connect with Family

Huntingdon County Family Thrives with Support of HNA Pediatric Home Connection

Hospice Patient Granted Wish to be Present for Life Event

HNA Home Health Walks with Alexandria Woman on Road to Recovery

Huntingdon County Family Thrives with Support of HNA Pediatric Home Connection

Bedford HNA Adult Day Services Helps Members Share the Past & Enjoy the Present

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Cambria County resident and hospice patient Aroline “Annie” Michina was delighted to find out her granddaughter was expecting a baby last year, but the possibility of being part of the baby shower to celebrate this life event seemed unlikely given Annie’s declining health.

The hospice team in Cambria County pulled together to make this special day a reality on September 16, 2015, through the help of Home Health Aide Patty Simeone and RN Case Manager Donna Hershel.

Patty helped Annie get ready, preparing her makeup and nails. Through your support of the HNA Foundation, Mission Grant funding provided a wheelchair-accessible van to transport Annie to and from the shower.

Donna accompanied Annie on the van, stayed with her throughout the event, and made sure she was at ease back home after the day’s activities.

The team continued supporting Annie at home until she passed away comfortably on December 5, 2015. Hospice makes it possible for those facing a life-limiting illness to have more moments that matter. To see more stories of how hospice care allows patients to experience a good life— all the way to the end, check out momentsoflife.org.

What is hospice?
Hospice is a special kind of comfort care and support delivered by trained professionals for those with a life-limiting illness and their families. This philosophy focuses on the person, not the disease, to address the medical, emotional, psychological, and spiritual needs of the patient and family. Care is available wherever you call home - your own home or a nursing facility, hospital, or an assisted living facility/personal care home.

Can I keep my personal physician?
Yes. We will work closely with your healthcare provider and help to reinforce the primary physician/patient relationship. We consider this bond to be a high priority.

Who is eligible for hospice care?
Any individual diagnosed with a life-limiting illness that, should the illness proceed as anticipated, would result in a life expectancy for the patient of six months or less is eligible for hospice care. After a physician certifies the patient’s hospice care, the patient and his or her family would elect hospice care to focus on quality of life.

Who pays for hospice?
Hospice is a 100% covered benefit under Medicare. This benefit covers the hospice team’s services, medications, equipment, and supplies related to the patient’s life-limiting illness. Hospice care is also covered under Medicaid and many insurance plans.

Who can make a referral to hospice?
Anyone can make a referral to Family Hospice, including physicians, individuals, family members, friends, clergy, and other healthcare providers. Call us at 1.800.445.6262 to make a referral. Hospice professionals conduct an assessment at no cost, and if an individual is eligible, the team works closely with the individual’s primary care physician to begin providing hospice services.

How can hospice volunteers help?
Our hospice volunteers are a special group of individuals who give of their time and talents to assist patients and their families. They can assist with daily activities and may read, sing, write letters, or just reminisce with you and your loved ones about life’s experiences. Their support enhances the quality of life for patients and helps relieve some of the demands that are often placed on caregivers.

Is Family Hospice licensed and accredited?
Yes. We are licensed by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

How does the agency safeguard your protection?
Every Home Nursing Agency/Family Hospice employee/volunteer has extensive background clearances. We cover each of them with general liability insurance and Worker’s Compensation insurance.

At left, Annie and her granddaughter pose for a photo during the baby shower. First two photos below, HNA Home Health Aide, Patty Simeone helps Annie with her makeup in preparation for the shower. Last photo, Patty, Annie, and HNA RN Case Manager Donna Hershel.
After surviving a tragic car accident in January 2015, multiple surgeries, and illnesses, Alexandria resident June Peters is on the road to recovery, thanks to the support of her husband Bill and the therapists of HNA Home Health.

With severe back and neck injuries, June's return to a normal lifestyle seemed unlikely. However, the regular support of HNA Physical Therapist Kevin Wallen and Occupational Therapist Gina Sunderland allowed June to set daily goals that supported her progress and longer term goals to become independent enough that her husband Bill could return to coaching baseball. Bill stepped away from his role as varsity baseball coach at Juniata Valley High School last spring to care for her; and this year Bill was on the field again as a coach in the community's teen league.

ONE STEP AT A TIME

"Kevin and Gina have brought me to where I am," June shared. "Kevin always brightened my days. He was positive and always focuses on the good!" Kevin’s guidance helped June walk through each step – figuratively and literally – of her recovery. With Bill always nearby to observe and learn, Kevin guided June through getting up and down from a chair, moving from side to side, and moving more independently throughout the house.

“June’s progress is a product of her commitment to get better,” Kevin noted, as he shared that his role as a physical therapist includes listening to and getting to know the patient’s goals so that he can help them make strides in that direction. "I helped June to think about each step before she moved and how she was going to get from one place to another. I had to ask her before she tried to move if her mindset was ‘I can’ or ‘I can’t’.”

MAKING “I CAN” REALITY

June’s “I can” mentality carried her through various milestones that she, Bill, and Kevin celebrated together, including reaching something on an upper shelf in the kitchen, dressing herself, and moving around the home more independently.

June and Bill are amazed at the progress she has made in the past year, as she can now maneuver around the house with just a rollator walker or Bill’s arm for stability. She reflects, “I never thought I’d see the day!”

Left, June and husband Bill at home during a visit from Kevin Wallen, HNA Physical Therapist.
Huntingdon County Family Thrives with Support of HNA Pediatric Home Connection

There is something special about being first.

For Vickie Yablonski, LPN with HNA Pediatric Home Connection, and her seven-year-old patient Elizabeth “Lizzy” Koontz, that something special keeps them connected through many hours and miles each week.

“Vickie has been with Lizzy since she enrolled in the program at two years old,” explains Lizzy’s mom Maria. “Vickie was Lizzy’s first nurse, and Lizzy was Vickie’s first patient.”

Lizzy’s complicated health conditions began at birth and restrict her ability to move her arms and legs, cause seizures, require tube feedings, and severely limit her vision. Her extensive medical needs require round-the-clock care and careful attention. After two years of caring for Lizzy on their own (while also balancing the care of their older son), they have to worry about Lizzy’s care back at home because of Vickie and Lizzy’s other nurses.

“For me, it’s an honor to care for Lizzy,” explains Vickie, a mom of 12 biological and adopted children, who has a unique understanding of Lizzy’s special needs, having cared for a foster child with a similar diagnosis. “I adore Lizzy - she’s so much fun!”

Lizzy’s giggles fill the room when she is held in a particular position in the arms of someone who loves her. Her delight is obvious when she’s enjoying the outdoors or her brothers’ antics.

“Even though she doesn’t speak like we do, she communicates with us,” Vickie affirms. “She has different noises for all of her cues. She is such a special little girl.”

YOUR SUPPORT MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Your donations to the Home Nursing Agency Foundation allow Pediatric Home Connection families like the Koontz family to experience life as “normal” as possible. Foundation Mission Grant funding covered the cost of additional nursing care so that the family could attend a loved one’s funeral while Lizzy remained safely at home in her nurse’s care.

At the top and lower left, HNA Pediatric Home Connection LPN Vickie Yablonski talks with Elizabeth “Lizzy” Koontz and administers her tube feeding. At right, Vickie and Lizzy’s mom Maria show that it takes a team approach to care for special children.

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As long-distance telephone operators, Elaine Rheem and Betty Zezula spent many years connecting callers to the right people. Years later, the two made a connection through the HNA Adult Day Services Center in Bedford.

When Elaine, 75, of Saxton, struck up a conversation with Betty, 92, of Six Mile Run, at the Adult Day Services program, the two realized they shared the same vocation as switchboard operators.

“I remember getting calls from the servicemen wanting to talk to their families,” Betty recalled. “I knew it would mean so much to them, and it was our job to make the connection.”

She and Elaine carried their passion for helping others to their time at the Adult Day Services center, where they made it their personal mission to spread joy to other members.

“WE BRIGHTEN DAYS”

“When people are grumpy, they’re missing so much!” Betty said with an ornery grin. “We brighten people’s days by what we do here.”

Many of the members consider themselves as part of the team, as Center Coordinator Vickie Brown shares that they try to involve members in the areas they feel most comfortable. Some like to lead activities, and others prefer to get involved with hands-on tasks like doing dishes or shredding papers.

“I’m privileged to be part of it,” Elaine shares. Diagnosed with Alzheimer’s disease, Elaine attended the program previously but stopped coming when she faced some other health issues. The psychiatrist treating her for Alzheimer’s disease recommended that she return to the program for socialization. Elaine is now blossoming with the attention and care and considers herself to be part of the team.

“This is a win-win situation,” she says. “I’m so glad it’s a working environment. I’ve enjoyed the many ways I’ve been helpful to people. When I’m here, I’m very happy about it!”

HELPING BOTH MEMBERS AND CAREGIVERS

Geared for adults who cannot perform self-care activities independently or function alone safely, the center provides a safe, home-like environment for members to enjoy activities, socialization, special holiday celebrations and events, outdoor walks, and more. The center’s staff offer close supervision and assistance as needed, offering peace of mind for caregivers who are working or handling other responsibilities.

Located at the Bedford United Methodist Church, members also enjoy regular times of devotions and singing led by Associate Pastor Jim Miller, who has seen the program at work.

“I try to make our times together fun so that the members get a kick out of it,” Pastor Miller says. He is glad that his outreach can be part of such a valuable community service. “Members get the best of care and attention here. I know caregivers need a break, and the program is a benefit in that way to give caregivers security and release them of guilt. It is also a great benefit to the members who come.”

Elaine Rheem (bottom left) has attended Adult Day Services for more than two years. She enjoys the time with other members (like Betty Zezula at right), staff (Denise Musselman, Program Assistant, at right), and with Associate Pastor Jim Miller (bottom right), who regularly visits the center to offer devotions and lead singing.

Betty has since relocated to a nursing facility to have the round-the-clock care and supervision that she needs.

HNA Adult Day Services can help. Services include care management, health promotion activities, social/recreational activities, nutritious meals and snacks, personal care, transportation arrangements, and family support.

WHERE ARE CENTERS LOCATED?

132 E. John St., Bedford | 814.623.6803
118 Ebony Rd., Ebensburg | 814.472.1262

WHAT ARE THE HOURS?

Centers are open Monday through Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m., however special accommodations may be considered depending on your unique needs. We are closed on major holidays.

WHO PAYS FOR ADULT DAY SERVICES?

We accept self-pay, as well as funding sources including Medicaid Waiver, long term care insurance, Veterans Benefits, as well as various state and county programs. Charitable care through the Home Nursing Agency Foundation can also be provided to individuals with limited resources.

ARE HOME NURSING AGENCY CENTERS LICENSED?

Yes. All centers are licensed through the Department of Aging.

WHO CAN MAKE A REFERRAL?

Anyone can make a referral. Simply call us at 1.800.445.6262 to find out what we can offer for you or your family member.
Leslie says, “But it sparked my curiosity.”

There was little conversation about his condition and what happened to him, “There was little conversation about his cancer and lived with an ostomy for two years before he passed away. Leslie has been with Home Nursing Agency for more than 10 years. She credits the HNA administration for how far her position has evolved. Her responsibilities include, but are not limited to, problem-solving complex ostomy and wound care; chart audits; and collaboration with product suppliers, nursing supervisors, and physicians. She also educates new and seasoned employees regarding ostomy care; collaborates with and mentors nurses about the care of ostomies in the home care setting. Additionally, she provides direct patient care and phone consultations. Leslie also partners with the HNA nutritionists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, and other health care providers help provide holistic recovery for an ostomate.

The inspiration she received motivated her to become more involved in care. “My coworker’s encouragement and her previous commitment to the field, caring for ostomy patients, fostered my involvement with the United Ostomy Associations of America (UOAA) as part of my career path. Since that time, helping patients learn about and cope with their ostomies has been an important part of my nursing career.”

Leslie is currently the vice president of the local UOAA. In her opinion, one of her most important roles is patient advocate; being involved with support groups provides her a setting in which she is able to relay information to help persons struggling with new ostomies, as well persons who have learned to live and cope with ostomies. For the past 28 years, she has refined her skills and expertise by attending local, regional, and national WOCN conferences; networking with colleagues; reading journals; and maintaining her CWOCN.

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HNA Wound Specialist Shares Passion & Expertise

As shared in the Ostomy Wound Management Journal, Leslie became a certified Enterostomal Therapy Nurse, or CETN, in 1987. This certification later became known as a certified wound, ostomy, and incontinence nurse (CWOCN), which expanded the role for the CETN to WOCN. “Since achieving my certification, I have been caring for people with ostomies and complicated wounds and have been an advocate for continence,” Leslie says.

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Art therapy clients from the HNA Center for Counseling displayed masterpieces in a variety of media at The Creative Healing Gallery art exhibit last fall. Art therapy is an alternative form of therapy for clients with mental health issues who may benefit from a tangible, expressive outlet for their thoughts and emotions. Art therapy supplies are provided through Mission Grant funding from the Home Nursing Agency Foundation. As HNA Mental Health Counselor Trista Conway shares, one artist showcased in the recent exhibit (work pictured to left) began art therapy approximately two years ago as part of her treatment for severe depression and anxiety. After divorce ended her 33-year marriage, she had difficulty putting her emotions and thoughts into words and found great progress when she was able to use art to express herself.

“The Creative Healing Gallery Art Exhibit

Tuesday, November 1, 2016
12 - 6 p.m.
Community Health Center
500 East Chestnut Ave., Altoona

Every piece of art tells a story, as an outward expression of an inner emotion. The above piece was accompanied by this note from the artist:

I spent many hours as a child on the swing my father hung in the big tree behind our house. Girl on a Swing takes me back to more Carefree days.

“Girl on a Swing”

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Tuesday, November 1, 2016
12 - 6 p.m.
Community Health Center
500 East Chestnut Ave., Altoona
Every Dollar Makes A Difference - Donors Reach Out to Help Others

For more than 48 years, Home Nursing Agency has depended upon the generosity of community partners – individuals, businesses, local governments, and organizations – to help ensure that our mission of providing care and services for those in need will continue.

Charitable dollars are necessary to help care for individuals and families who have limited resources, and support many of the Agency’s community-valued services like the Healing Patch children’s grief program and bereavement support groups for adults and families – both of which are offered free of charge.

Every dollar truly helps so many. Every gift truly has a story.

Thank you to the following donors who have helped make a difference in the lives of our neighbors.

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Mr. John S. Vancas
Ms. Jacklyn F. Valentine
Mrs. Jennie M. Turner
Ms. Sharon T. Tomassetti
Ms. Sally M. Toner
Mr. Mark A. Tree
Mr. and Mrs. Joshua J. Tremblay
Mrs. Marie Tremel
Ms. Carla Trelux
Mr. J. P. Trexler
Mr. William H. Trippier
Ms. Sharon Troy
Mrs. Karen M. Trudell
Ms. and Mrs. Christopher H. Turley
Mrs. Jenne M. Turner
Jackilyn F. Valentine
Mr. John S. Vancas
Germaine K. Vigne
Mrs. Cathy Vincent
Mrs. Rose B. Voth
Mr. Paul J. Vrabel
Barbara Wachter
Ms. Joanne Wande
Joyce R. Wagner
Sylvia Wahler
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Wafkessee
Denise A. Walters
Ethel Walters
Donna L. Weaver
Freda S. Weaver
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn C. Weaver
Linda Weber
Ms. Julie Weicht
Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Weller
Robert E. Wertz
Mr. Douglas M. Westover
Mr. and Mrs. James E. Westrick
Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Weyandt
Mr. William L. Wheeler, Jr.
Ms. Debbie White
Mr. and Mrs. Jay S. White
Patricia A. White
Gary Whitfield
Peggy A. Whittington
Mr. and Mrs. Edward C. Wigfield
Betty J. Wilkinson
Mr. and Mrs. William S. Willey
Deborah S. Williams
Nicholas Williams
Mr. and Mrs. David J. Willeneker
Bethel M. Wilks
Donald L. Wilson
Leslie P. Wilson
Lorraine J. Wilson
Roderick M. Wilson
Mary A. Winkler
Patricia M. Winters
Jesse L. Wise
Mr. and Mrs. John L. Wolf
Edward J. Wolfe
Louise Wolfe
Patricia F. Woldorf
Grace B. Wood
Dixie D. Woodard
Mr. and Mrs. Dave A. Woodle
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Woodrow, Jr.
Bernard E. Wright
Sarah M. Wright
William J. Wright
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Yarner
Judith A. Yering
Mr. and Mrs. Earl Yoder
Mr. and Mrs. David F. Zakrzewski
Mr. Robert Zapf
Mr. and Mrs. Donald R. Zeiders
Miss Janet W. Zerby
Mazel A. Zimmermann
Mr. John H. Zitzberger
Boyd K. Zook
Mr. and Mrs. John W. Zook
Rita V. Zupon
Ms. Sondra R. Zupon

SERVICES OF REMEMBRANCE
Community members who have experienced the loss of a loved one are invited to attend a Service of Remembrance at one of the locations listed below. Services begin at 3 p.m.

Pay special tribute to loved ones who have passed away by sharing your loved one’s name to be read during the service and by decorating a luminary bag to be displayed. Attendees may arrive at 2:30 p.m. to decorate luminary bags before the service begins at 3 p.m. Please register your attendance online at www.homenursingagency.com or by calling 1-800.445.6262 (select option three and ask for ext. 2566).

• Centre County: Sun., Oct. 16
Trinity Lutheran Church
2221 N. Oak Lane, State College

• Millfin/Junianata Counties: Sun., Oct. 23
Grace United Methodist Church
101 Logan Street, Lewistown

• Cambria County: Sun., Oct. 30
Grace United Methodist Church
619 5th Street, Cresson

• Huntingdon County: Sun., Nov. 6
St. James Lutheran Church
525 Afton Street, Huntingdon

• Blair County: Sun., Nov. 13
Trinity Lutheran Church
408 N. 6th Street, Altoona

• Bedford County: Sun., Nov. 20
Bedford Church of the Brethren
310 Donahue Manor Road, Bedford

THE PATCH CLUB: A 1920S SPEAKEASY EVENT
Friday, Oct. 28, 2016 | 6 p.m.
The Casino at Lakemont, Altoona
See more details on back page.

THE CREATIVE HEALING GALLERY
Tuesday, Nov. 1, 2016 | 12-6 p.m.
Community Health Center, Altoona
Check out the unique works of art
art therapy artists who use various media as an outlet for their emotions.

LIGHTS OF LOVE
November – Holiday
Lights of Love will once again be displayed in our local areas with blue and white lights representing hospice and grief services. The Lights of love holiday giving campaign invites people to make a donation of any amount in honor or memory of loved ones. Make a donation online at www.homenursingagency.com and post a dedication on our interactive trees in memory or honor of your loved one. Donations can also be made by calling 1-855.GIVE.HNA (1-855.448.3462).

CHILDREN’S GRIEF AWARENESS DAY
Thursday, Nov. 17, 2016
Wear blue to show your support for grieving children in our community. We’ll be sharing photos of CGAD supporters on our HNA Facebook page, so please send your photos to celebrategiving@homenursingagency.com.

PATCHED TOGETHER: A DAY OF MUSIC TO BENEFIT THE HEALING PATCH
Saturday, Nov. 19, 2016 | 2-10 p.m.
The Bavarian Aid Society, Altoona
Live music, giveaways, games, and family fun will combine in the Sixth Annual Patched Together concert. This annual all-day event harnesses the power of music to raise funds on behalf of the Healing Patch. To learn more, visit www.patchedtogether.com

MERCEDES MOMENT
Thursday, May 18, 2017
Ticket sales will begin soon for the HNA Foundation’s signature fundraiser. A $100 ticket gives you a 1 in 1,000 chance to win a new Mercedes or $30,000 cash! To be added to the pre-sale waiting list, please call 1-855.GIVE.HNA (1-855.448.3462).

HNA EVENT CALENDAR
PLA N TO JOIN US FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!
Psst....Have you heard?
Say the password to get into this unique Prohibition-era event and enjoy an interactive mystery dinner theatre with music by Tommy Wareham and the Intrigues. Revel in great food, decadent spirits, cool jazz, and an interactive mystery whodunit, and footloose dancing—all to benefit The Healing Patch children’s grief program.

October 28, 2016 | 6 pm
The Casino at Lakemont, Altoona
Tickets are only $50 each with cash bar.

TICKET BUYING OPTIONS:
• Purchase tickets online at www.homenursingagency.com. Tickets will be mailed to you within two weeks of payment.
• Call 1.855.GIVE.HNA (1.855.448.3462)
• Visit the HNA Corporate Office at 20 Sheraton Dr., Altoona or the HNA Administrative Office at 201 Chestnut Ave., Altoona 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Monday - Friday

SPEAKEASY SPECIAL: FILL A TABLE
Fill a table of eight people for the price of seven! This offer cannot be redeemed online, so please call the Foundation at 1.855.GIVE.HNA (1.855.448.3462) to purchase your table of eight!