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A NEW ERA FOR VNA BEGINS AS HAGGERTY CENTER OPENS

When the ceremonial ribbon was cut to the entrance of the Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center on May 6, 2008, guests witnessed not just the opening of a new building, but the beginning of a new era for the Visiting Nurse Association.

During its nearly 75 years of existence, VNA has provided an expanding range of home care services to frail, sick, disabled, and dying individuals in Northeast Texas. The opening of the center is a new chapter in a journey that began in 1934 when VNA was first organized and worked out of a small rented basement on North Harwood Street in Dallas. As the organization grew, larger office space was needed and VNA relocated to 2831 Ervay Street, formerly the Dreyfus House, and later to offices on Greenville Avenue.

VNA's first capital campaign made it possible in 1991 to purchase property for its headquarters at 1440 W. Mockingbird Lane in Dallas. When a February 19, 2005 six-alarm fire destroyed the building, VNA moved its operations to leased offices. A long-term lease agreement was arranged for its home care, hospice, and long-term care departments. Planning began for construction of the "Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center for the Visiting Nurse Association" on the same site where the fire-damaged building once stood.

The new center is named in honor of the Haggerty family's legacy of support for VNA. The late Beatrice Haggerty had served as chairman of the VNA of board of directors and played a key role in funding construction of a Meals on Wheels kitchen inside the headquarters building acquired in 1991. Patrick Haggerty Jr. currently serves as board chairman of the VNA foundation and vice chairman of the VNA board of directors. His sister, Teresa Haggerty Parravano, is a past board chair and now a life member of the board.

The center is 21,660 square feet and includes the Rees-Jones Foundation Community Room, a boardroom, volunteer training room, and offices for Meals on Wheels and volunteer administrative staffs.

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The building features a mural history of VNA and will have an interactive kiosk that provides information about home care services the agency provides.

Also housed in the center is the Beatrice M. Haggerty Kitchen, which is 3,000 square feet larger than the one destroyed by the 2005 fire. Over 3,900 Meals on Wheels are now prepared there each weekday. The kitchen also produces congregate meals for the Dallas County Senior Centers, in addition to meals for children attending Mi Escuelita pre-schools. The Beatrice M. Haggerty Kitchen is the largest single Meals on Wheels kitchen in the United States, with the capacity to produce 14,000 meals a day.

The Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center for the Visiting Nurse Association represents the continuing commitment by VNA as the community's nonprofit home care organization for providing home health, hospice, and long-term care services. The center is also a symbol of community support since 1934 for VNA's mission.



The Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center for the Visiting Nurse Association opened on May 6, 2008.

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Patrick Haggerty Jr., Teresa Haggerty Parravano, and Robert Carpenter, VNA president and CEO, in front of the Beatrice M. Haggerty Kitchen located inside the Patrick and Beatrice Haggerty Center for the Visiting Nurse Association.



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