

Mid-Year Impact Report

2021-2022



EXPANDING PROGRAM TO HELP SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN

Last August, we reported that VNA now provides hospice care for pediatric patients throughout North Texas. Since its launch, the program has seen extremely high demand. In efforts to serve as many children and their families as possible, VNA is expanding our Children's Haven Pediatric Hospice team. A dedicated nurse and child-life specialist have been hired to provide compassionate and practical support for seriously ill children (pre-natal to 21) and their families.

VNA is expanding efforts to provide seriously ill children in North Texas with compassionate hospice care.



ADDING COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS TO INCREASE ASSISTANCE

VNA is excited to announce the addition of Community Health Workers (CHWs) to our VNA Meals on Wheels team. With a generous grant from Dallas County, VNA will hire three CHWs to work directly with Dallas County seniors who need Meals on Wheels service as well as navigating other potential needs for community assistance.

VNA is expanding service to seniors by adding Community Health Workers to the Meals on Wheels team.

LEADING THE WAY IN GERONTOLOGY RESEARCH

VNA Meals on Wheels participated in a research pilot program with the Brown University School of Gerontology to determine the best method for delivering meals to individuals suffering from Alzheimer's/dementia, comparing shipped frozen meals to daily, hot meals delivered by a friendly driver. The small pilot was so successful it has led to a much larger study that will involve the enrollment of 500 clients in 2022. VNA is excited to participate in this innovative research.

Critical research focuses on the needs of the elderly suffering from degenerative brain disease.



VACCINATING THE MOST VULNERABLE

Since February 2021, VNA has been offering in-home COVID vaccines to all Meals on Wheels clients who expressed interest. Thus far, VNA has vaccinated more than 1,450 vulnerable seniors and continues to offer this service. To aid in vaccination efforts, VNA was awarded a Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant in partnership with Meals on Wheels America and RISE. Funding enabled VNA to enlist interns to work directly with clients. The interns contact seniors, help answer questions about vaccines and other needs, and schedule in-home vaccines for those seniors who request it.

VNA is committed to helping seniors receive COVID vaccinations in the comfort and convenience of their own homes.