



December 4, 2006

Mr. Eugene Ferraro
Somerville Rotary Club
37 Mason Street
Somerville, MA 02144

Dear Mr. Ferraro,

As we begin the holiday season and approach the New Year, many of us will be moved to reach out to those in need. At Visiting Nurse and Community Health (VNCH), our thoughts turn to the many neighbors living among us without the benefit of health insurance. When illness or injury strikes these families, the financial burden can be overwhelming. As a result, some people don't seek or receive proper medical attention. At VNCH, we believe that **everyone** should have access to the care they need, regardless of their financial status. That's why, for over 100 years, *we have never turned a patient away because they couldn't afford our services.*

As this record illustrates, we are deeply committed to the 33 town and cities in Greater Boston where we provide the highest quality home health care to predominantly elderly patients. However, as each year passes, it becomes increasingly difficult for us to provide free services for the uninsured. VNCH is a non-profit organization. As you might imagine, recent changes in insurance practices and Medicare have made it increasingly difficult to maintain the reserves we need to provide services free of charge.

That is why I am writing to ask for your help. I know your organization is as committed as we are to the people of (town). I hope that as individuals or as an organization, you will consider supporting the **VNCH Fund for the Uninsured**, a program we have established to ensure that no one in our community goes without home health care due to financial hardship. Whether a patient needs rehabilitation after an injury, support through a long-term illness, or follow-up attention after an operation, we want them to know that they and their families can count on us to deliver unparalleled home-based care and, just as importantly, peace of mind.

Our goal is to raise \$20,000 for the 2007 Fund through the support of community organizations like yours. Whether your members can contribute \$5 or \$500, we will be most grateful for your support. And we know our uninsured patients will be, too.

The enclosed brochure describes the services we provide and lists the communities in which we work. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss VNCH and the Fund for the Uninsured with you, so please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

With sincere thanks to all of your members,

Christine Dixon, R.N.
Chief Executive Officer

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