



Visiting Nurse Association  
of Central Jersey

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### **Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey Celebrates 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

RED BANK, NJ, June 24, 2007 – The Visiting Nurse Association of Central Jersey celebrated its 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary in style, combining the emotion of patient family stories and a historical narrative of VNACJ over 95 years with the excitement of celebratory fireworks on the Navesink River at the estate of Judith Stanley Coleman and James Coleman, Middletown.

More than 150 attendees assembled for the VNA of Central Jersey's annual meeting and celebration of 95 years of service to the community based in need. From its earliest beginnings in June 1912 at the Middletown estate of Geraldine Thompson, VNACJ has been dedicated to helping the most disadvantaged citizens in our society. Despite a challenging health care environment, VNACJ has remained committed to providing the charitable and community-based services integral to its mission. In 2006 alone, VNACJ provided services to more than 100,000 people in Monmouth, Middlesex and Ocean counties. Over the decades, VNACJ programs have continued to grow and expand. The evening's program included a presentation by 15 VNACJ staff recounting the history of VNACJ that included early child welfare programs and prison reform, control of tuberculosis, mobile outreach to migrant workers, the first prenatal clinic, disaster response during the early war years, certified home health, and the establishment of the first certified Medicare Hospice program in the region. Today, the VNACJ's in-home health care services include diabetes, cancer care, cardiopulmonary care, wound care, joint replacement care, rehabilitation services, complex infusion therapy, and hospice. Community based programs address senior wellness and immunizations, special child health services, woman, infant and children nutritional counseling, HIV/AIDS, school-based programs, traumatic brain injury and programs for people with disabilities. Special guest presentations by two patient families added to the emotional impact as they shared their stories of VNACJ services in the care of their loved ones.

Mary Ann Christopher, VNA of Central Jersey CEO and President also recognized Judith Stanley Coleman, who celebrated her 30<sup>th</sup> year as the agency's volunteer leader and chair. "I have had the privilege of growing up in my career in the finest organization in the country under the guidance and leadership of a great mentor," Ms. Christopher said. "Through her leadership in fundraising, advocacy and ambassadorship, we have been able to continually pioneer new roles in community health service provision."

Mrs. Coleman thanked the attendees and the community for their continued support of VNACJ's mission. "We are grateful for the outpouring of community support that has sustained us. One of the most notable was the year-long planning for last month's signature Stately Homes By-The Sea Designer Showhouse. Over 1,000 volunteers contributed their time and talents. This was by far our most successful event, netting over \$475,000 in funds that help ensure access to home and community-based care is a reality for everyone," indicated Mrs. Coleman. This year's Judith Stanley Coleman award was presented to Mrs. Isabel Giblon in honor of her late husband, Robert P. Giblon of Shrewsbury, for his remarkable contribution to public health and in furthering the mission of VNACJ. Mr. Giblon was a strong proponent of planned giving through charitable trusts and a charter member of the Geraldine Thompson Legacy Society.

The evening ending in a gala display of fireworks over the Navesink River - a worthy celebration of 95 years of compassionate care.