



# Protecting Our Elder Care Safety Net

Faith F. Scott, FACHE  
President & Chief Executive Officer

The home care sector and our VNA are not immune to the sweeping changes and massive cost restructuring that's occurring throughout the healthcare continuum.

While there's no question we'll be impacted, exactly how remains unclear. Home care is endorsed under federal healthcare reform (the Affordable Care Act/Obamacare) as a preferred, cost-effective alternative to acute and custodial care for many patients. However, we're simultaneously facing cuts to the payments we receive for our work with Medicare patients.

In a flawed effort to achieve overall cost savings, the federal government has reduced home care funding annually since 2009 and now the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services have recommended more cuts each year through 2017. Since a significant number of VNA clients are seniors with modest fixed incomes who rely on Medicare to help cover the cost of their care, this proposal and others that target essential funding are very troublesome.

Our response to these short-sighted government funding strategies is multifaceted. We're working diligently to optimize our operating efficiency without sacrificing the caliber of our services. We're also reaching out to elected officials to promote greater understanding of what's involved in delivering high quality home-based care that improves the quality of life for our elderly and actually reduces the need for more costly forms of treatment and intervention.

In the midst of this volatile environment, we are encouraged and invigorated by the realization that our VNA has successfully risen to challenges and endured for 115 years with unwavering community support.

Once again, we ask you to join us in expressing opposition to public policies that cut home care funding and erode the elder care safety net – and we thank you for your donations which help us uphold our mission of caring. Together, we can ensure that the VNA's services remain accessible to all who need them in the later phase of life.

Faith F. Scott, FACHE

PRESIDENT & CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

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National Home Care and Hospice Month

Tell Us Your Story

*Cover: Sandwich Generation caregiver Andrea Torres and family including her mother, Aleyda Toledo de Diaz, a current client/former VNA aide.*

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Faith F. Scott, FACHE  
*President & Chief Executive Officer*

Lisa Salamone  
*Executive Vice President & Chief Operating Officer*

Amanda DeFelice  
*Community Relations Manager, Editor*

Greer Luce  
*Development Assistant, Editorial Assistant*

Satellite Advertising & Design, Inc.  
*Design*

Lauren Parran  
*Copywriting*

Michael Peters  
Roy Groething  
Jerry Casciano  
*Photography*

If you have a change of address or would like us to add someone to our mailing list, please call the Community Relations office at (973) 451-4169.