

## Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County, Inc.

### RECOGNIZED PIONEER IN HOME CARE

Since 1954 Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County, Inc. has been serving the Bergen County community with quality home care services. Originally founded by the National Council of Jewish Women and the Junior League, in 1956 we incorporated as a charitable corporation under the name: Community Homemaker Service of Bergen County, Inc. In 1965 the agency was granted tax-exempt status from the IRS as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit agency. In 1977 the agency officially changed its name to Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County, Inc., which more clearly represented the combination of homemaker-companion type services and the expanded home care services provided by our trained and certified home health aides (CHHA).

We are also known as Visiting Homemaker Service of Bergen County, which is similar to the name used by other nonprofits providing the same services in other NJ counties.

Visiting Homemaker is accredited by the National Association of Home Care & Hospice, an affiliate of Home Care University. The NJ Office of the Attorney General, Division of Consumer Affairs licenses us as a Health Care Service Firm. We are an approved provider agency of Medicaid, Veterans Affairs, and Bergen County Board of Social Services. We work closely with all County offices, especially the Department of Human Services, Senior Services, Office on Aging, and the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), as well as a variety of community agencies.

**AT HOME, BUT NOT ALONE.**

## County Funded Programs

### Bergen County

### Department of Human Services Funds CHEER Program & CHHA

Once again, Bergen County Department of Human Services provided funding for the CHEER Program allowing us to continue to serve isolated and homebound seniors through a program that started in the 1970's. In addition to the funds from the County, Visiting Homemaker helps subsidize the services through generous donations and a volunteer component that started about five years ago. Eligible seniors without nearby family and friends receive assistance from our companion workers with doing their errands, grocery shopping, light housekeeping services, and laundry. The companion services provided by this program enable more seniors to remain safe in their home, where they would rather be.

### CHHA—Certified Home Health Aide Funded Again Through Peer Grouping

State of NJ funds allocated to us by Bergen County Department of Human Services from the Peer Grouping system provide certified home health aide care for income eligible residents. The program has been instrumental in assisting individuals with activities of daily living including bathing, dressing, feeding, grooming, grocery shopping, housekeeping to remain at home with their family. Thank you to all involved for the continued support.

## Volunteer & Community Support

### Volunteer Projects

The employees at **Hunter Douglas, Inc.** in Ramsey continued their North Pole Santa tradition by donating many, many beautiful and needed gifts to our alone and homebound CHEER clients. In addition, our own employees and volunteers participated in the **Volunteer Center of Bergen County's** December All *Wrapped Up* program providing special gifts to our needy clients. Over one hundred frail vulnerable elderly clients enjoyed a much brighter holiday season thanks to all the volunteers and employees who took the time to think of someone else. Students at **Notre Dame Interparochial School** participated in making Mother's Day cards that were distributed by our **Visiting Homemaker Volunteers** to our CHEER clients. Our own volunteers are crucial to providing shopping services to 50 more clients each year. Thank you to everyone!

### The Community Chest Provides Funds for Senior Care

Since 1992, The Community Chest has provided Visiting Homemaker with funding for home health aide services that benefit seniors living in Englewood, Tenafly, and Englewood Cliffs. Services are short term and enable at risk seniors to remain safe at home with care provided by certified home health aides to assist with bathing, dressing, grocery shopping, laundry, light housekeeping and errands.



## President's Message

In 2010, almost 55 years since we first started providing basic home care services to residents in Bergen County, our mission remains the same: *to provide quality in home and community services for individuals who are unable to care for themselves or need assistance.* Our goal is to keep people safely in their homes, especially frail elderly seniors, rather than being placed in expensive nursing homes or other institutions.

Although our mission has remained the same, we experienced some key organizational changes this past year. In 2009, Susan McGibney, the executive director that served the agency in that capacity for 22 years, retired. Gail Ryan became the new executive director in July and has been working closely with the Board to expand the charity care services that Visiting Homemaker provides to those in need. She also coordinated the agency's comprehensive three year accreditation review by our accrediting agency, National Association of Home Care & Hospice.

Our programs continue to serve the most vulnerable population in our community, the frail elderly. Of course, we also provide home health care services and companion aide services to people of all ages and those with disabilities or recent illnesses that require assistance at home. We serve private pay clients and provide care that is subsidized by our generous donors and grant providers. Special thanks to all who contributed and to those who pay privately for our quality, low cost services.

With the economy still seeking to fully rebound, folks continue to be in need of subsidized home health care. As we all know, the senior population is growing and institutionalized care is expensive. In addition to the private pay clients we serve, we are also known in Bergen County as the agency to turn to when charity care is needed for emergency home care or for needy clients who could remain at home if they had the services of a companion or home health aide. Many have no one to turn to but us; our nonprofit agency each year serves hundreds of residents who need subsidized companion and home health aide care. Please help support our mission to keep people at home, but not alone, as our slogan states, by making a financial contribution at any time.

We look forward to continuing to meet our mission and to having the community think of us when someone they know needs quality home care. We are committed to being the community's home health care agency that you can turn to whether you can afford to pay for home care or not. Best wishes for remaining healthy at home!

Christine Farrington, President, Board of Trustees

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### **Financial Report**

An audit for our fiscal year 1/1/2009-12/31/2009 has been performed by the accounting firm of Malesardi, Quackenbush, Swift and Company LLC, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. The audit is available for review at Visiting Homemaker, 298 Union Street, Hackensack, NJ, or call to request a copy.



# Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County, Inc.

## 2009 Annual Report

For Administrative Year  
June 1, 2009 – May 31, 2010



**Visiting Homemaker  
Home Health Aide Service  
of Bergen County, Inc.**  
298 Union Street, Hackensack, NJ 07601-4303  
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WWW.VHSBC.COM

**Nonprofit 501(c)(3)**

## A special thank you to our contributors who provided needed support.

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### **In Kind Support**

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