

PRESS RELEASE

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THE COMMUNITY CHEST AWARDS \$15,000 GRANT TO VISITING HOMEMAKER HOME HEALTH AIDE SERVICE OF BERGEN COUNTY

Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County received a grant of \$15,000 from The Community Chest for its Senior Care Program offering subsidized home care assistance to low-income ill and disabled older persons residing in Englewood, Tenafly, and Englewood Cliffs.

The Senior Care Program extends crucial assistance to people who are unable to manage their day-to-day needs due to a temporary disability or chronic health problems. It provides them with the services of a certified home health aide who will keep people safe and comfortable in their home environment.

Without the help of the Senior Care Program, these people may be forced to choose between moving to a publicly funded nursing home or living in neglect due to their inability to pay for needed services.

People who are helped by the program have varying needs; some may be recovering from a short-term illness and need a helping hand to return to independence. Others may be suffering from chronic illness. The Senior Care Program provides the help they need on a short term, temporary basis while the agency's registered nurses assist them and their families to make other long term care arrangements.

The program's aides assist patients with personal care tasks such as bathing, grooming, dressing and also will help with shopping, meal preparation, light housekeeping, and the patient's laundry. The aides' visits also bring the warmth of social contact and encouragement to boost the spirits of people who are often alone and depressed.

According to Gail Ryan, Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service's Executive Director, "The Community Chest has generously supported our Senior Care Program since 1992 and this support has enabled us to help scores of area residents who are facing health care crises. This year's support is particularly significant. It comes at a time when we are facing so many budget cuts at the same time as more people than ever turn to us for assistance. Many people cannot afford the care and assistance they need to keep them at home. We are so grateful that The Community Chest stands by us and makes it possible for us to continue to help those in need in their community service area."

The Senior Care Program funded by The Community Chest is one of many services offered by Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service of Bergen County, a nonprofit agency that has been serving the Bergen County community for over 50 years. As the premier companion and home health aide services provider in the area, Visiting Homemaker offers a variety of private pay and grant funded services that enable people of all ages to receive the care they need in the comfort and dignity of home. It provides high quality, individualized services including certified home health aides, companions, grocery shopping, errand and light housekeeping services, occasion care, and other customized and supported services to people throughout Bergen County.

Further information about eligibility and services for the Senior Care Program and other home care services can be obtained by contacting Visiting Homemaker Home Health Aide Service, 298 Union Street, Hackensack; by telephone: 201-488-0041, Ext 12; by email: Intake@vhsbc.com, or on the web: www.vhsbc.com.
