



VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION
OF SOUTH CENTRAL CONNECTICUT, INC.

News Release

For more information:
Jennifer Bernheim
Public Relations Coordinator
One Long Wharf Drive
New Haven, CT 06511
jbernheim@vnascc.org
203.859-6054-Direct

For Immediate Release

Edward M. Kennedy, Jr. to serve as Honorary Chairman & Keynote Speaker for 11th Annual Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing



New Haven, CT (February 10, 2011) – John R. Quinn, President & CEO of VNA Health Systems, announced today that Edward M. Kennedy, Jr. will serve as the Honorary Chairman and Keynote Speaker for the 11th annual *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* to be held Thursday, May 5, 2011 at the Toyota Presents Oakdale Theatre in Wallingford. The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* is Conn.'s largest statewide nursing recognition program that celebrates outstanding nurses and the nursing profession.

“I am thrilled to announce that Ted Kennedy, Jr. will be this year’s Honorary Chairman and Keynote Speaker for our distinguished Nightingale Awards event,” Quinn said. “Ted recognizes that nurses are invaluable and looks forward to honoring Greater New Haven’s outstanding nursing professionals.”

Kennedy is the President and co-founder of Marwood Group & Co., a healthcare focused financial services firm that specializes in proprietary healthcare research, capital introductions,

asset management and private equity advisory services. Kennedy has been an active leader in the civil rights movement for people with disabilities and practices health law. He continues to serve on the corporate and advisory boards of numerous disability organizations and lectures nationwide on topics relating to health and disability law. Kennedy received a law degree from the University of Connecticut School Of Law.

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* program was originally developed in 2001 by the [Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut](#). The goal of the Nightingale Awards is to encourage retention, inspire future nurses, focus public attention on and recognize the breadth and scope of nursing practice at the local level. In 2003, the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* grew to include Programs in Greater Fairfield County, Greater Hartford County, and Eastern CT as well as the original program in New Haven. In the spirit of inspiring future nurses, Nightingale provides scholarships to nursing students at Quinnipiac University, Yale University, Gateway Community College, Sacred Heart University, and Southern Connecticut State University. To learn more about the event or to purchase tickets, visit <https://www.nightingalenursingawards.org/newhaven/>.

The *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing* are non-competitive and inclusive of all health care settings - hospitals, home health care, health centers, schools, health departments, long-term care facilities, nursing schools, agencies, and medical practices. Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners who demonstrate excellence may be nominated for recognition by their employers if they are involved in clinical practice, leadership, scholarship, and/or education. To learn more about nominating a nurse, visit <https://www.nightingalenursingawards.org/newhaven/>.

Sponsorship opportunities for the event are available. For more information about becoming a sponsor or supporting the awards event contact Jennifer Bernheim, Public Relations Coordinator, at 203-859-6765 or email nightingale@vnascc.org. Major sponsorship benefits include attending a private pre-event reception with Edward M. Kennedy, Jr.

About VNA Health Systems

VNA Health Systems is comprised of the Visiting Nurse Association of South Central Connecticut (VNA/SCC) and CareSource, Inc.

Founded in 1904, the VNA/SCC, the original VNA of New Haven, Milford and the Valley, is a state licensed, non-profit, community based home health care agency. The VNA/SCC staff consists of highly skilled nurses, therapists, medical social workers and home health aides. A vital resource to the communities it serves, the VNA/SCC provides a wide range of specialized clinical services, community programs, the Nurturing Families Network and subsidized care to those who are in need. The agency employs over 230 staff members, has an average daily census of over 1,000 patients and makes over 170,000 home visits per year. The agency is the founder of the *Nightingale Awards for Excellence in Nursing*. The VNA/SCC is supported in part by The Community Foundation for Greater New Haven, local United Way organizations, corporate sponsors and individual donors.

CareSource strives to maximize the quality of life for its clients and their caregivers in the home and health care settings. Their services include private duty nursing, homemakers, companions and live-in home health aides. Both VNA/SCC and *CareSource* are CHAP (Community Health Accreditation Program) accredited. To learn more about the organizations, log onto www.vnascc.org or www.caresourceinc.org. To view quality information about VNA/SCC, as reported by Medicare, log onto www.medicare.gov and click on the link: Compare Home Care Agencies.

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