



Connections

APRIL 2007 – ISSUE 5

A newsletter from Iowa Health Home Care



Our Services

Nursing (Pediatric and Adult)

Private Duty

Home Care Aides, Companions,
Homemakers

Therapies (PT, OT, ST and RT)

Medical Social Workers

Home Infusion Therapy

Home Hospice

Taylor House Hospice

Palliative Care

Home Medical Equipment

Lifeline (Emergency Response)

Telemonitoring

(515) 557-3100



Iowa Health Home Care Among Top 100 Home Health Providers in the Country

Iowa Health Home Care (IHHC) is proud to announce that we have been named to the 2006 HomeCare Elite, the inaugural compilation of the most successful home care providers in the country. This ground-breaking review names the Medicare-certified agencies whose performance measures in quality, improvement and financial performance are among the top 25 percent of providers nationwide. IHHC has also received the additional distinction of being a Top 100 agency within the HomeCare Elite.

“We applaud the success of all the providers named in the 2006 HomeCare Elite,” said Bill Bassett, senior director of Market Strategy at OCS, Inc. “Being noted as one of the top performers in the nation in this very competitive environment shows that Iowa Health Home Care is dedicated to quality and performance.”

“This achievement shows the intense dedication our team has in providing the very best care for our patients,” said Susie Flood, executive director of certified services at IHHC. “Being recognized as one of the top performers in the nation, out of more than 6,000 home care agencies, is truly an honor,” she added.



“As performance improvement, both clinical and financial, continues to be a critical metric for home care agencies, it’s wonderful that we now have an award that recognizes our industry’s highest achievers,” said Tonya Nevin, executive publisher of DecisionHealth. “We congratulate Iowa Health Home Care on being one of the top 100 best performing home care agencies in the country.”

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The 2006 HomeCare Elite is the first performance recognition of its kind in the home health industry. The 2006 HomeCare Elite is sponsored by OCS, Inc., a provider of

healthcare information, and DecisionHealth, publisher of Home Health Line. The data used was compiled from publicly available information.

Every Day is a

Bonus Day



Betty Gillotti

Betty Gillotti is a walking miracle. She is an inspiration to those who know her. Despite many medical and personal tribulations throughout her life, this 86-year-old is one of the most grateful women you could ever meet. Genuine happiness like Betty's is contagious.

Betty's health matters began in October 2005 when a bowling ball fell on her foot. Betty had enjoyed being a twice-a-week bowler for years. She opened her locker door one evening and a bowling ball landed on her foot. She went to the hospital to find out she had fractured two of her toes. The doctors placed her swollen foot in an immobilizer and that was all they could do. Her foot was in poor condition and full recovery was very unlikely.

While at the hospital, Betty asked her doctor about another peculiar rash on her knee. She soon found out that the rash was shingles. Shingles is a virus that is threatening to elderly people with a weakened immune system. Despite the scars, Betty remains optimistic about getting shingles.

"The bowling ball falling on my toes was a blessing. I would have never discovered I had shingles and things could have gotten a lot worse," Betty said.

Betty was also dealing with heart complications and her fragile body was filling with fluid. The doctors tried dialysis, the removal of wastes or toxins from the blood, and that was not effective. Betty could no longer perform everyday tasks without difficulty.

At that point Betty was admitted to hospice care. It didn't take long to realize she wasn't getting worse. As days went by Betty was getting better and stronger. She improved enough to transfer out of hospice care to a skilled nursing facility to receive physical therapy and wound care for her fractured foot. Then, after Iowa Health Home Care (IHHC) evaluated Betty's medical needs, she was able to

return home with home care services from IHHC. Betty received nursing care in her house on a regular basis. She purchased a lift chair from our home care center at Iowa Methodist Medical Center that helps her sit comfortably, and a walker she rarely needs but has just in case. She also utilizes our Lifeline service, an emergency response system.

In June 2006, Betty began using oxygen services from IHHC. She uses our homefill oxygen equipment, a unit that creates its own oxygen and refills tanks. Betty changes and refills her tanks in her own living room. A nurse or equipment technician does not need to assist her. She uses our small portable tank and carries it whenever she leaves her house. Her tank and carrying case weigh about ten pounds.

At the age of 86, Betty is a mother of four and a grandmother to ten. She keeps a busy schedule with visits from her family, writing love stories and attending Mass on Saturday nights. She is a devoted Catholic and her strong faith in God is amazing. "I'm alive because of the man upstairs. I owe him my life," said Betty.

Mary Kay Suckow, a nurse consultant for Iowa Health Home Care admires Betty's strength. "Betty is an inspiration to me. I admire her strong faith and determination to live life to the fullest. She seems to treasure each day and be so joyful to be alive," said Mary Kay. "It was a pleasure to work with her and her devoted family in making home care arrangements.

"Now I see her at church and she is so thankful to have her small portable oxygen unit — that allows her to be independent and active," continues Mary Kay.

Not many people would continue to display genuine happiness about life after numerous medical struggles like Betty. She has no animosity about her life. Betty says, "Everyday is a bonus day. I'm glad to be here." The team at Iowa Health Home Care is pleased to be a part of Betty's life.

New West Des Moines Store

Our newest retail store, located in Clive, opened on Monday, Feb. 19. The store is prepared to meet the home health needs of our patients and customers by offering top-of-the-line products. An array of “product centers” at the store include women’s health, mobility, orthopedics, bath safety and more.

Our goal is to offer all the products our patients and customers need to get back on the road to good health.

Because our new location is near many other important healthcare organizations, we hope our customers will take advantage of this convenient location and exceptional product line. Our desire is to be accommodating to our customers, physicians and patients by carrying the products they need. Please let us know if you have specific needs.

Our promise to customers who visit our store is that you won’t step foot outside the door without a full explanation on how to properly use the products. IHHC’s highly trained professionals will assist with any questions or concerns about the purchase.

The store is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The address is 12695 University Avenue in Clive. The phone number is (515) 225-6893.



IHHC’s Stadtlander Named on “100 Great Iowa Nurses” List



Phyllis Stadtlander

The third annual listing of “100 Great Iowa Nurses” was announced in March. The Iowa Nurses Association, Iowa Nurses Foundation and the University of Iowa College of Nursing have partnered to create this list, which celebrates nursing by honoring 100 nurses from around the state each year.

Phyllis Stadtlander, Iowa Health Home Care’s COO/VP, is among this year’s recipients. Stadtlander has been with Iowa Health Home Care since 1998. There are 21 recipients from Iowa Health System in 2007.

These outstanding nurses are recognized for their courage, competence and commitment to patients and the nursing

profession. Nominations are submitted by colleagues, patients, doctors, friends and family members.

The nurses and their invited guests will attend a ceremony in their honor Sunday, May 6, in Des Moines, the first day of National Nurses Week.

This year’s honorees represent 43 Iowa counties. The original pool of 338 nominees came from 61 of Iowa’s 99 counties. The nominations were reviewed by a panel of past recipients and then narrowed to 100 by a committee of nursing professionals. Nurses selected for this honor represent many sectors of health care, including hospitals, long-term care facilities, and school and office nurses.

To see the list of this year’s and past year’s honorees, visit www.greatnurses.org.

Bringing Better Living Home.

Breast Pumps Part of Expanded Product Line

Iowa Health Home Care (IHHC) is now offering a new line of breast pumps and accessories for expecting mothers. IHHC has partnered with the lactation consultants at Iowa Methodist Medical Center and Iowa Lutheran Hospital to provide breast pumps and essential education to new mothers.

New moms are often concerned about breast feeding. Questions arise about what kind of pump to purchase, when and where to purchase their pump, using an old pump, buying accessories and so on. These concerns are normal for many expecting mothers. IHHC is here to help answer these questions.

Just give us a call or contact us through the hospital's lactation consultants. We will bring the pump to the mother's delivery room Monday through Friday. After hours, and on weekends, our pumps are available through the hospital's lactation consultants.

Breast pumps and accessories can also be obtained at any of our home care centers. We have three convenient locations in the Des Moines area.

Iowa Methodist Medical Center Atrium
Des Moines, IA 50309
(515) 241-HOME (4663)

Westside Store
12695 University Ave.
Clive, IA 50325
(515) 225-6893

Main Office
11333 Aurora Ave.
Urbandale, IA 50322
(515) 557-3130



Pumps can be rented or purchased. Some insurance companies do pay for the purchase or rental of a breast pump. We will work with you and your insurance company to maximize any benefits you may have.

For more information about this new program or other services provided by Iowa Health Home Care, please call (515) 557-3100.