

Thursday, April 15, 1982

Visiting Nurse is spelled with capital V, capital N

By Lorraine McClish
staff writer

Janice Caie Lawrence is responsible for managing her own time schedule when she starts out on her job with a

list of five to seven calls that must be made to persons who need home nursing care.

And those persons might live from one end to the other of the Southfield, Birmingham, Bloomfield Hills, West

Bloomfield and Farmington areas on any one given working day.

She bought a new car with front-wheel drive this past fall in order to assure she'd be able to make those calls through the winter. And the car trunk is filled with a host of nursing care equipment, "Just in case I need them. Just in case I'm called for an emergency," she said.

Lawrence is one of 500 Visiting Nurses who work out of one of the nine Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) offices in metropolitan Detroit.

When she uses the term Visiting Nurse, she said, "That's with a capital V and a capital N to distinguish us from nurses who sometimes visit and who sometimes make house calls."

She works out of her home office in Farmington Hills, which receives about 20,000 requests a month for visits within an area of 400 square miles.

On some days she will make her first call directly from her home if that's expedient. She might use a dictation machine to fill out a report rather than check into the office if time is short. But she will always keep in touch by phone.

"WE'RE A COMMUNITY service agency, and these people need us," she said. "We exist because these people need us. If I get an emergency call during the day that interrupts the set schedule, we work it out. We work in teams of five, and no matter what, we just work it out."

She describes her job as one of filling the gap between the acute care given in the hospital and the patient being on his own in his own home.

"Sometimes I think of myself as a teacher, because a lot of teaching is done to patients and their families to help care for themselves," she said.

"A lot of that teaching is in the area of stress prevention, which is what health care is all about. Rehabilitation is really prevention of another stroke," she said, giving an example.

"Besides, keeping people well is cost effective."

She says her goal is to help the persons she sees maintain their independence and their safety, but added, "All I can do about that is suggest and advise."

She told about one case where the motivational level for getting well was so low she had to concentrate on that



A stop into a Southfield home brought the Visiting Nurse to check on the welfare of Zarifa Marougi. When Janice Lawrence visits the Marougi home she works through an interpreter.



Janice Caie Lawrence considers the gold people-helping-people pin part of the uniform she wears with her snappy navy blue pantsuit when she makes her rounds for Visiting Nurse Association of Metropolitan Detroit. The pin is given to United Foundation contributors, and the association is a Torch-Drive agency.



Staff photos
by Randy Borst

Help from the Visiting Nurse comes to Carrie and August Jafano, who have been residents of Birmingham since 1939. Janice Lawrence is teaching Jafano how to care for his wife at home, in her recuperation after suffering a stroke.



Blumberg takes VNA presidency

Jane Blumberg of Bloomfield Hills has been elected president of the Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) of Metropolitan Detroit.

The VNA is a Torch-Drive agency which has provided professional home health-care services in the tri-county area for more than 84 years.

she said.

"We believe that the people who have given so generously to the United Foundation and the Plymouth United Fund while they were working are entitled to the best health services that this community can offer," she said.

Fees for VNA services for patients without insurance or Medicare coverage are based upon the patient's or family's ability to pay.

"VNA's growth has been dramatic. Today it is such an important element in the health-care delivery system that the annual budget is now about \$14 million," Blumberg said.

The primary source of revenue is Medicare-Medicaid and Blue Cross-Blue Shield and other insurances.

"Also important to us are the donations by patients, their families and friends, and major philanthropic organizations, who are clearly pleased with our services and commitment," she said.

The United Foundation allocates the funds for those who cannot pay.

BLUMBERG HAS served on VNA's board of directors for several years. She also has served on the boards of Community Case Management Services, Inc. of the Wayne County Community Mental Health Board, Sinai Hospital Guild and Shapiro School of Nursing.

With an educational and professional background in social work and health care, she is a former social worker for the Children's Center, Wayne County Child Guidance Clinic.

The VNA office for this area is located at 29226 Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills. Its administrative office is at 7700 Second Ave., Detroit.

During Blumberg's term of office she will be working with other new incoming officers: Ricky Rose of Birmingham; Ruth Friesema of St. Clair Shores; Leslie Rose from Fedelti Bank of Michigan in Birmingham; attorney Thomas Coulter; Jean Werner-Beland, an associate professor of nursing at Wayne State University; Dorothy Dumke of Grosse Pointe; Michael Flaherty from Children's Hospital; and Stephen Howard of Walled Lake.



A lesson in giving insulin shots is given to August Jafano, who is taking on that job now since his wife has not been able to do that for herself. Teaching home care is a big part of the Visiting Nurse's job.



Jane Blumberg

Please turn to Page 2B