

Salem Area Visiting Nurse Association
PRESS RELEASE

SAVNA CELEBRATES 100 YEARS OF SERVICE, MERGES WITH HOME CARE AGENCY, AND INCREASES COMMUNITY SERVICES.

Salem Area Visiting Nurse Association (SAVNA) is pleased to announce its 100 year anniversary and the recent acquisition by merger of Home Care Advantage, Inc. into its operation.

SAVNA is Salem's oldest visiting nurse association. It was incorporated in the State of Ohio in 1919, and has served the residents of Salem and the northern Columbiana County for one hundred years.

SAVNA is a non-profit association and a fully qualified IRS 501 (c)(3) entity. Every three years it undergoes evaluation and certification by the Joint Commission on the Accreditation of Hospitals Organization ("JCAHO"). JCAHO is an organization whose mission is to continuously improve the safety and quality of care provided to the public which it does through the provision of health accreditation and related services that support performance improvement in health care organizations. Although its requirements for certification are strict, JCAHO has continuously accredited SAVNA as meeting all requirements for the safety and quality care of its clients. Its financial activities are monitored and audited each year by an independent accounting firm. SAVNA employs thirty-one individuals in nursing and administrative positions.

Home Care Advantage, Inc. celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary this year, having been chartered as a non-profit home care corporation in 1994. It has provided quality home health care services and support for its clients for all of those years. Its staff of home care health aides and its trained, tested, and licensed State Tested Nursing Aides ("STNA") work in conjunction with the patients' doctors and nurses. Home Care Advantage also undergoes JCAHO accreditation every three years and has successfully met all requirement for certification. Its financial activities are monitored and audited each year by an independent accounting firm. Home Care Advantage, Inc. employs fifty-seven individuals.

SAVNA and Home Care Advantage agreed to merge together as a single non-profit corporation and combine their services in order to provide better services to the community. "Home Care Advantage is the area's premier home health care agency. It's long-term success, sound management, and JCAHO accreditation make it stand out amongst providers of home health care services. Those qualities mad Home Care Advantage a perfect fit to join the professionals at SAVNA," said SAVNA's Executive Director, Brenda Kays, R.N.

SAVNA is managed by a Board of Trustees drawn from the local community. Board members include Mayor John Berlin, Wavelene Arnold (retired from Salem Regional Medical Center Pharmacy), Michael Giangardella (Salem Regional Medical Center), Suzanne Hickey (Hickey Metal Fabrication), David Scarpitti (Hunter & Associates), Catherine Hofmeister (Hofmeister Realty), Jerry Buckley (Huntington National Bank), Attorney Bret Apple (Law Office of K. Bret Apple), and Attorney Ian Robinson (Fitch & Kendall Law Office). Retiring board member Alma Apicella, R.N. served the agency for many years.

For further information, please contact Brenda Kays, R.N., Executive Director, Salem Area Visiting Nurse Association, 718 E. Third St. Suite A, Salem, Ohio 44460. Telephone: 330-332-9986, or 330-337-4663. Facsimile: 330-332-8899.