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2017 SUMMER APPEAL

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Anne, RN closely monitors patients with telehealth.

Dear Friend of Cornerstone VNA,

When you think of health care technology, you likely think of its use in a hospital or doctor's office, but did you know that technology is also used in home care? Cornerstone VNA embraces technology and invests in special equipment to provide the best care. This is often what sets us apart from other home care providers. Last year, Cornerstone VNA upgraded to a sophisticated telehealth program (pictured), which resulted in a 60% reduction in hospital readmissions for patients with Congestive Heart Failure. Although telehealth is not currently reimbursed by health insurance, we are committed to providing this service at no cost to our patients, especially those who have complex medical needs.

Have you ever used your smartphone to video chat with your family? This concept is the same as telehealth, but telehealth offers special features for monitoring vital signs, such as blood pressure and weight, and also provides educational videos and other teaching tools. Our Telehealth Nurse, Anne, oversees the program and is alerted to changes in a patient's condition. These alerts prompt Anne to make video calls from her computer to the telehealth unit at the patient's home. The ability to make video calls has saved patients from going back into the hospital and provides a level of comfort and support to patients and their families. Additionally, thanks to wireless connectivity, we are able to provide telehealth to patients who live in remote areas.

"I was monitoring a patient who had been diagnosed with Congestive Heart Failure. He had been very independent prior to his diagnosis, so he was reluctant to use his oxygen. Thanks to the telehealth program, I was alerted to his low oxygen reading and video called him right away. To my surprise, he was pale, his nose and lips were blue and he was struggling to breath. I immediately instructed him to put his oxygen on, waited for his color to return and provided further education about the importance of using his oxygen. I strongly believe that the telehealth program saved his life that day." - Anne Carle, RN

To support telehealth, Cornerstone VNA relies on grants and individual donations to provide this unique and beneficial service. Last year, Hannaford Charitable Foundation provided funding to expand our program from 25 telehealth units to 35 units. Telehealth is just another way in which we are transforming the home care experience. Your contribution ensures our continued success of this program as well as other programs that improve the health and well-being of our patients. My sincere thanks for your support!

Sincerely,
Julie Reynolds, RN, MS
Chief Executive Officer

p.s. Your generous support of special programs, such as Telehealth, help our patients improve their health and quality of life by staying connected to our nurses through live video chat and real-time remote vital sign monitoring.