



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

For more information, contact:  
Mary Lou Brasee  
Visiting Nurse Association  
(402) 930-4022 | [mbrasee@vnaomaha.org](mailto:mbrasee@vnaomaha.org)

### **Eleventh Annual Art & Soup Event to Provide Support To Local Homeless**

**Omaha, Neb.** (Jan. 21, 2008) – The Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) will host its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Art & Soup event to benefit the Shelter Nursing Program on Sunday, February 17, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Convention Center, located at 72<sup>nd</sup> and Grover Streets in Omaha, Neb.

New this year, a Patron Party event featuring a light three-soup meal prepared by Sage Student Bistro at the Institute for the Culinary Arts, as well as early entrance to Art & Soup to buy-it-now on the silent auction, meet artists one-on-one, and purchase original artwork.

Proceeds from the event allow VNA to continue providing public health services for children and adults living in Omaha and Council Bluffs homeless shelters. In 2007, VNA shelter nurses provided public health nursing services to 1,045 children, 1,281 women and 1,917 men totaling 4,243 (unduplicated) individuals served. Children living in homeless shelters continues to increase. VNA provides care to these youth and teens in the six Omaha children's shelters. The increase in the number of homeless children is attributed to abuse and neglect, runaways, abandonment or children experiencing a family crisis.

This year, Art & Soup will feature original artwork from 60 area artists and soups uniquely created for this event by 25 of Omaha' and Council Bluffs' finest restaurants. The event raised more than \$140,000 in 2007 through art sales (a minimum of 50 percent of the proceeds from artwork goes directly to VNA), ticket sales and donations. This accounts for more than 17 percent of the program's funding for the year.

Attendees can sample the different soups and vote for their favorite, in addition to viewing and purchasing original art from area artists. Artwork will include paintings, sculptures, jewelry and live artist demonstrations. Live jazz, desserts and coffee will also be on hand for guests to enjoy.

"Art & Soup is an entertaining, culturally diverse fundraiser that allows the Visiting Nurse Association to continue its mission of providing public health services to the poor, homeless, abused and underserved," says Betty Cernech, vice president of Visiting Nurse Association's community health services.

Tickets are \$45; \$100 for Patron Party tickets, which include entry into Art & Soup. Purchase tickets online at [www.vnaomaha.org](http://www.vnaomaha.org) or call (402) 930-4021 today.

###

#### **About the Shelter Nursing Program**

Nurses visit local Omaha-area homeless shelters to provide health care to children and adults, including health screenings, prenatal education and support, nutrition education, adult and pediatric asthma care, as well as linking individuals to primary health care providers, identifying community resources for families and advocating for the homeless, including frail elderly and immigrant populations. The VNA provides public health nursing to the following shelters: Siena Francis House, Open Door Mission/Lydia House, Cass Street, McAuley Center for Women and Families, The Shelter for Abused Women, Children's Crisis Center, Kids Cottage, Youth Emergency Service, Family Service Shelters and the Stephen Center.

#### **About the Visiting Nurse Association**

Established in 1896, the VNA provides home care, IV therapy, hospice, and community health services. VNA cares for all people, especially mothers with infants and the elderly, for whom preventive care is critical. For more than 100 years, VNA remains true to its mission: to foster the dignity and well-being of the residents of our community by delivering the highest quality home and community-based health care services that provide peace of mind, quality of life, and independence. VNA is accredited by the Joint Commission.