



# Colorado Visiting Nurse Association

Care, Quality and Comfort Since 1889

## 2021 ANNUAL REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



**A mission-driven community  
nonprofit with a Colorado legacy  
more than 130 years long.**

Colorado Visiting Nurse Association provides the most appropriate range of health care solutions to allow people to remain independent while healing or aging at home.

**Our Values**

Care, Quality and Comfort  
since 1889

# LETTER FROM PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Colorado Visiting Nurse Association (Colorado VNA).

We, like many of you, experienced another unprecedented year in 2021. However, as challenging as 2021 was, it was also a year of progress and innovation for Colorado VNA.

As Colorado's oldest and leading nonprofit home healthcare agency Colorado VNA provides care, quality and comfort, ranging from preventive to recovery to end-of-life, in the home and community.

In 2021, we have worked to fulfill this mission by adding to our existing strengths and growing new capabilities – all with your help. We are pleased to share with you our Annual Report for 2021.

A few highlights of our 2021 advances have included:

- Dr. Phil Ramos, our hospice and palliative care medical director, achieved Board Certification in hospice and palliative care
- Julie Nunley joined Colorado VNA as the new President of the organization
- We continued our annual trend of reaching even more patients and families with hospice and palliative care and grief and loss counseling
- While we will continue to face challenges, we have much to look forward to as we continue our mission.

Many things have changed over the past few years and we anticipate that this will continue to do so. One thing that will not change, is our commitment to our community and providing the highest quality home healthcare, hospice and palliative care, and wellness services for all who are in need.

We encourage you to read more about how we have impacted the lives of those in our community in 2021. We thank you for your generous support and continued trust in Colorado VNA.



Julie Nunley  
President



Ben Price  
Chair of the Board of Directors

## DR. RAMOS EARNS BOARD-CERTIFICATION IN HOSPICE AND PALLIATIVE MEDICINE



We're excited to announce that Colorado VNA Medical Director Luis Felipe (Phil) Ramos, MD, is officially board-certified in hospice and palliative medicine. Being board-certified signifies that Dr. Ramos has undertaken extra education to attain a high level of expertise in hospice and palliative care.

Dr. Ramos received his certification from the American Board of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, following his completion of the Interprofessional Palliative Care Fellowship at Harvard University.

Dr. Ramos has been a practicing physician for more than 15 years, including 10 years as a nephrologist and a medical director of an outpatient dialysis clinic. He also has recent experience as a hospice and palliative care physician with The Denver Hospice.

Dr. Ramos looks forward to teaching the CVNA staff all that he has learned from his studies. As medical director, Dr. Ramos leads the clinical team of nurse practitioners, registered nurses,

social workers, chaplains and certified nurse aids in the care of patients with advanced and terminal illnesses.

### Value of Certification

- Certificants achieve a tested and proven competence across the spectrum of hospice and palliative care.
- Certificants increase their knowledge of hospice and palliative care by seeking and maintaining certification.
- Certificants demonstrate a commitment to their specialty practice by pursuing certification.
- Certificants demonstrate dedication to professional development in their careers by attaining the credential.
- Certificants are assets to themselves because the commitment to certification improves patient outcomes, provides compensation incentives, and gains industry-wide recognition.
- Certificants are assets to their employers, because board certification is a recognized quality marker by patients, physicians, providers, quality organizations, insurers, credentialers, and the federal government in an atmosphere of increasing awareness regarding quality in health care and appropriate utilization of services.



## JULIE NUNLEY JOINS COLORADO VNA AS PRESIDENT



Colorado Visiting Nurse Association is pleased to announce that Julie Nunley joined the organization as president Sept. 7.

“We are excited to have Julie join Colorado VNA,” said Tim Bowen, president and CEO of the Care Synergy Network, a collaborative of not-for-profit home health, hospice and palliative care providers across Colorado. “Her years of excellence in nursing and health care organizations make her an excellent fit. We are looking forward to Colorado VNA continuing to offer excellent care across Colorado under her leadership.”

“I am honored to join CVNA and the dedicated team that continues the tradition of excellence in caring for our patients, families and our communities,” Nunley said.

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Nunley is an experienced health care leader who was most recently a Vice President and the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) at UCHHealth Poudre Valley Hospital. She began her career as a nurse in 1984 and has been serving in leadership roles for more than 20 years, including as a chief nursing officer for 13 years and a CEO for five years in both not-for-profit and for-profit health care organizations.

Nunley has also been active in her community and profession by serving on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Organization of Nurse Leaders as the Director of the Metro District and as a member of the American Association of Nurse Executives

## THANK YOU TO OUR TEAMS

The Home Healthcare, Hospice and Palliative, Wellness and CAPABLE (aging in place) patients we serve were already facing underlying serious illness in 2021. The heightened risk of COVID-19 brought new challenges with safer-at-home guidelines, visitor restrictions in both long-term care and hospital settings, and so much more.

As we face the COVID-19 pandemic, the role of the home healthcare, hospice and palliative care team member is especially vital as they care for this particularly vulnerable population. As home healthcare, hospice and palliative, and wellness professionals, our team members primarily deliver care in the home or location of the patient instead of at clinics or hospitals. These frontline healthcare workers have been faced with new challenges and have responded remarkably.

Colorado VNA is very thankful for all of our team members who met the challenges in 2021. With heartfelt gratitude, we stand behind and support our frontline home healthcare, hospice and palliative care workers and are grateful

## COLORADO VNA HELPS WITH IMPACTS OF WILDFIRES IN BOULDER COUNTY



Natural disasters, like the wildfires that we recently experienced here in Colorado, can impact us in ways that we can't imagine. Losses of this scope strike at the heart of our vulnerabilities as humans at the mercy of nature. Whether the tragedy impacted our homes and family directly or we were witness to the horror unfolding from a distance, we may be more impacted by it than we recognize.

With news coverage bringing the images of the destruction and the faces of the survivors into our homes each day, it becomes something very intimate and something very surreal. Each new report adds weight to the story of our human frailty and resilience—the traumatic stories of escape and the heroic rescue efforts, the shock and devastation of losing all worldly belongings in a moment and the generosity of spirit and outpouring of support from neighbors and strangers.

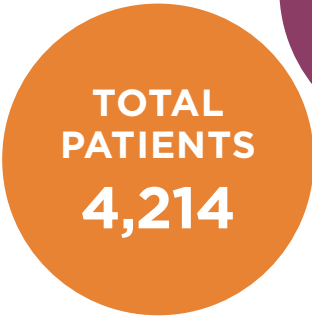
Colorado VNA recognizes and respects how much impact these images and stories may have on us, particularly when they are folded into the rest of the stresses in our lives. No traumatic event happens in isolation; it is received in us as part of the whole of our experience. It is important to be aware of the residual ways we may be impacted that don't connect directly to these events.

To assist our community, Colorado VNA used its expertise to respond meaningfully and responsibly by providing resources and offering support to anyone impacted by the tragedies of the recent fires in Boulder County.

For more information contact Colorado VNA Grief Support at (720) 325-2987 and [griefsupport@vnacolorado.org](mailto:griefsupport@vnacolorado.org)

### Natural and Normal Responses to Events Involving Life Loss and Destruction

- Questioning basic beliefs about everything
- Intense feelings of all kinds
- Feelings of general hopelessness, fear, frustration, sadness and/or anger
- Sense that things feel out of control
- Sense of loss of safety and security
- Sleeping and eating disturbances
- Worsening of pre-existing problems
- Lethargy
- Distressing dreams
- Need for comfort and assurance
- Desire for structure and regularity

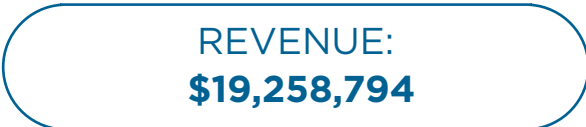


**REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

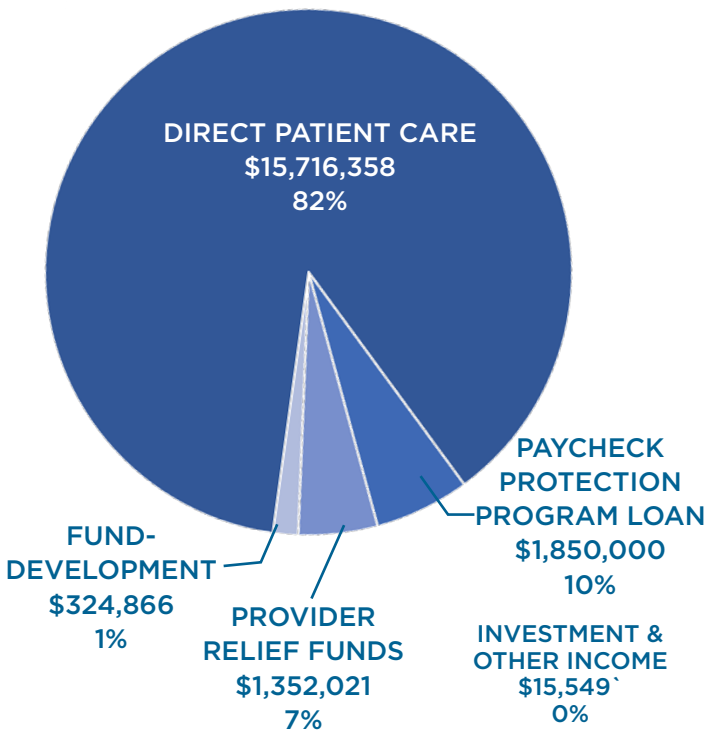
With an admirable team of dedicated, experienced employees, Colorado VNA is a pillar of support for individuals and families in need of evidence-based, compassionate wellness, home health, and end-of-life care. We are committed to providing health solutions that enable people to function as independently as possible in their homes and communities.

**REVENUE AND EXPENSES**

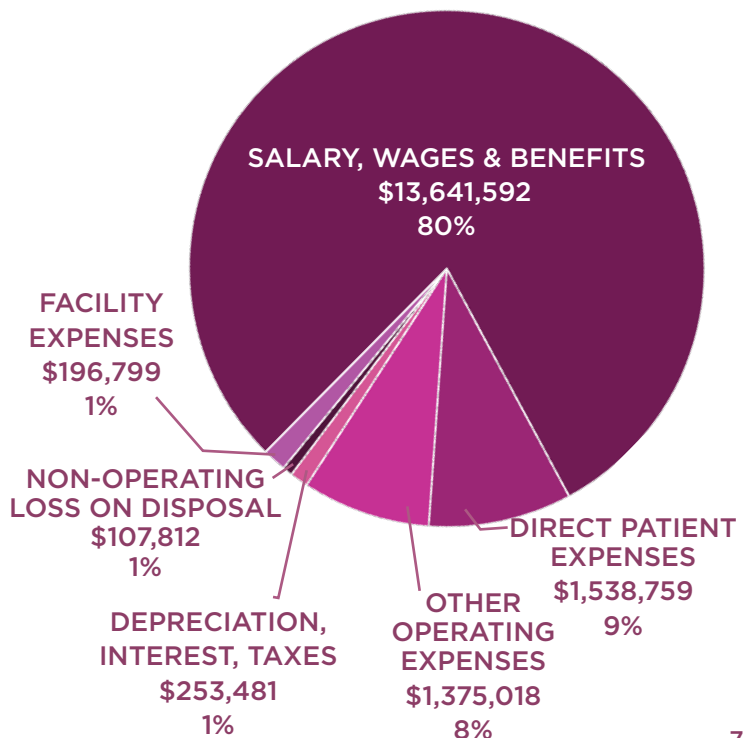
At Colorado VNA, our work is guided by our not-for-profit mission; care, quality and comfort drive our business. Payments for services, grants, and donations cover our costs and allow us to invest in innovative programs and health technologies, advance staff education and skills, to those in need.



SOURCES OF REVENUE



HOW WE SPEND THE FUNDS ENTRUSTED TO US



## **COLORADO VISITING NURSE ASSOCIATION**

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