

Committed to quality care

BY MEAGHAN CASEY

For All Care Visiting Nurse Association (VNA) and Hospice nurses, therapists, certified home health aides and homemakers, the home health care profession isn't merely a job; it's a way of life.

As its 100th anniversary approaches, All Care remains dedicated to providing the best health care and hospice care at home, keeping its patients safe and enabling them to live their lives at the highest quality possible. The patients are what motivate its staff every day. Getting to know them personally, and caring for them in the comfort of their own homes, keeps them connected to what's really important in life.

No one understands that better than Valerie Picuch, who serves as the manager of All

Care's Bridge to Hospice program and who has 38 years of nursing experience.

"It's a calling," said Picuch. "I've always had a passion for end-of-life care. It's a privilege and an honor to be able to care for patients in their own homes. They do so well in their own environment."

Picuch joined All Care as a case manager 11 years ago and went on to serve as clinical manager and then hospice manager before branching out to the new Bridge program, which was launched in July 2008. The program aims to create an integrated system and continuum of care between All Care VNA and Hospice, serving patients and their families from the time of diagnosis throughout the course of the illness. As manager of the program, Picuch is responsible for the outreach in the communities All Care serves throughout Greater Boston and Eastern Mass.

"I love building relationships with the

patients," said Picuch. "At All Care, we take great pride in our ability to treat each patient, the person, as well as any medical condition, and to work with each family to provide a comprehensive home care plan. My job is to support them when they're making these choices about home care and to inform them, early on, about what hospice can provide. Working closely with the VNA clinicians allows us to provide the best possible care to our patients and their families

"We at All Care all share the same commitment to meeting the goals of our patients," she added. "We treat our patients like our family and care for them in the way we would like to be cared for ourselves – with respect and dignity."

If you know someone who is sick, being discharged from the hospital or rehab, or simply needs extra care to live safely, visit www.allcare.org or call All Care at 1-800-287-2454.



All Care's continuum of quality patient care includes:

All Care Visiting Nurse Association – offering skilled services for recovery from illness or hospitalization.

All Care Resources – providing supportive care for health and independence at home.

All Care Hospice – symptom and pain management for comfort, compassion and support at the end of life.

Bridge to Hospice – transitioning patients from VNA to Hospice when appropriate.



Bridge to Hospice manager Valerie Picuch, far left, visits with All Care VNA staff at the Lynn office including, back row, from left, Diane Soslak, Donna Field, Liz Costello and Loretta Chwaliszewski; front, Susan McKinnon, left, and Cindy Garland.