

From The VNA of Fox Valley News Room...

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 14, 2011

*Contact: Amy Downing,
Director of Marketing
630-978-2532*

VNA of Fox Valley receives \$70,000 grant for the Aurora Community Heart Clinic

February 14, 2011- VNA of Fox Valley recently received a \$70,000 grant from the William G. McGowan Charitable Fund for the Aurora Community Heart Clinic. The Aurora Community Heart Clinic, a collaboration of the Fox Valley Heart Foundation and VNA of Fox Valley, is located at VNA Health Center, 400 N. Highland Avenue in Aurora.

In September 2010, VNA hired a Cardiology Physician Assistant to work one day per week to provide cardiology consultations under the supervision of Dr. Santosh Gill.

“Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for adults,” said Dr. Santosh Gill, Medical Director of Cardiology at Rush-Copley Medical Center and founder and chairman at the Fox Valley Heart Foundation. “The Aurora Community Heart Clinic was founded to provide this life-saving medical specialty to adults with limited resources and no health insurance.”

Dr. Gill donates her time to the Aurora Community Heart Clinic. VNA provides staff, billing, and clinic management. The goals of the clinic include providing access to specialized care; improving patient understanding of disease process and personal risk factors; improving patient outcomes including blood pressure and cholesterol control; achieving high levels of clinically appropriate treatment; and providing education for life-style modification to decrease risk.

“This generous donation from the McGowan Fund will help support the goals of the Aurora Community Heart Clinic,” said Linnea Windel, President/CEO of VNA. “Our plan is to expand the clinic over a three year period to provide cardiology services on-site up to three days a week.”

The William G. McGowan Charitable Fund was established in 1992 and today continues to preserve the legacy and advance the mission of Mr. McGowan. During his lifetime, McGowan rose from modest beginnings to become a very successful businessman and CEO of MCI. McGowan was known as ‘the man who took on Ma Bell and won’ through his efforts to break up the AT & T monopoly in the telecommunications industry.

“Cardiac health continues to be a core program within the McGowan Fund mission. The Board of Directors is pleased to support projects that promote prevention and early disease detection, and empower patients to more actively participate in their care.” commented Diana Spencer, Executive Director of The McGowan Fund.

“In 1986, Bill McGowan suffered a heart attack and was diagnosed with end-stage heart failure. He received a heart transplant in 1987, and took a six month leave from his duties as CEO at MCI. He was able to return to MCI and continue his successful career until his death on June 8, 1992 from another heart attack,” said Sue Gin McGowan, President of the McGowan Fund. “Through his own experience during his illness, he saw the potential to improve patients’ quality of life through innovative medical programs and research.”

“The Aurora Community Heart Clinic is a wonderful example of a program that shares the McGowan Funds’ philosophy. Our board believes the collaboration between Fox Valley Heart Foundation and VNA makes for a stronger program with the ability to maximize its impact on adults lacking health insurance who need cardiac treatment,” said Mary Alice Gin, McGowan Fund board member. “My family has personally witnessed the devoted care VNA provides to the community, and it is with great pleasure that we can take this opportunity to give back.”

For more information about the Aurora Community Heart Clinic, contact the Fox Valley Heart Foundation at 630-723-3493 or www.foxvalleyheartfoundation.org or VNA of Fox Valley at 630-978-2532 or www.vnafoxvalley.org. For more information on the McGowan Fund, visit www.mcgowanfund.org.

#