People are at the heart of everything we do at Visiting Nurse Association Health Group (VNAHG), from the many patients of all ages that we serve to the dedicated professionals who deliver that care with compassion. As we move forward with a comprehensive and aspirational plan to increase our positive impact on individuals, families and communities, we are deeply committed to ensuring that we create the workforce of tomorrow to close the current gaps and meet growing needs for decades to come. Not just for VNAHG but also for others.

The shortages of today, and those looming for tomorrow, are urgent. Nearly 20% of healthcare workers quit their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic.

This only accelerated a difficult trend, adding to the shortage of healthcare workers that already existed. These resignations also magnified the challenges of burnout and a lack of educational programs to train new nurses, clinicians, caregivers, and home health aides.

The shortage of well-trained nurses and health care workers comes at the same time these professionals are needed more than ever – to meet the needs of an aging population and increasing rates of chronic illnesses and disability.

The U.S. Census Bureau says the number of people 85 years old and older is expected to nearly double by 2035 (from 6.5 million to 11.8 million) and nearly triple by 2060 (to 19 million people). By 2040, just 18 years from now, the number of Americans who are 65 or older will reach 80 million. And numbers from the Centers for Disease Control show more than a quarter of young adults live with a chronic condition, as do almost two-thirds of middle-aged adults. For those 65 and older, it soars to nearly 90 percent, with about, with about two-thirds facing two or more chronic illnesses.
As part of our pledge to not only respond to the changing healthcare landscape, but to be proactive in addressing it, VNAHG aspires to develop the needed workforce for years to come by creating opportunities for more professionals to get the training and education they need to join the healthcare field in a wide variety of roles, especially in delivering home and community-based care for an aging population.

VNAHG will help Create the Workforce of Tomorrow by focusing on:

• Expanding the availability of nurses, aides, and other healthcare workers for home and community-based care to serve the aging population
• Being a voice to educate policymakers on the impact of the workforce shortages while proactively inspiring ideas to address the problem
• Empowering family caregivers of older adults with knowledge and resources they need to become an extended part of the care team
• Proactively addressing the issue by establishing a national and a New Jersey-based coalition of provider organizations to highlight the healthcare shortage problem and possible solutions

Perhaps the boldest of the initiatives to drive the growth of healthcare workers joining the field will be to conduct a feasibility study aimed at launching a home and community-focused nursing and health professional school.

VNAHG is dedicated to expanding education and empowering professionals to deliver the compassionate care that is our hallmark. To reach these goals we need your help and support for The Bold Opportunity of Creating the Workforce of Tomorrow as part of our $25 million comprehensive campaign – the Moving Healthcare Forward: Together Campaign.

Together, we will face the dire decline in the healthcare workforce by leading the way in providing opportunities for training, certification, ongoing support, and caregiver education.