

Health and help happen at home

Nurses extend personalized care in comfort of patients' own homes

Nurses from Centre HomeCare Inc. travel to patients' residences and provide charitable or sliding-fee based care.

By MY LINH NGUYEN
Collegian Staff Writer

On a typical workday, Gay Giannone puts 30 to 100 miles on her car.

Giannone, a maternal-child home-health nurse for Centre HomeCare Inc. in Bellefonte, visits five or six homes a day throughout the area.

Most of her time is spent on paperwork and travel, but she is still able to give personalized care to each of her 26 patients.

One December morning, Giannone arrived at the home of Kathy Dyke and her four young children in Bellefonte. Giannone has been monitoring the family for almost a year and the children are used to her biweekly visits.

Giannone visits to check on the two youngest, Kyler, 2½, and Teia, 15 months, who are not growing as quickly as they should.

Giannone laid a baby scale on the coffee table and lifted Kyler onto it. Kyler sat wiggling—but cooperative—on the scale as Giannone checked his temperature and heart rate.

After the brief examination, Kyler hopped off the scale. It was now his little sister's turn. Giannone lifted tiny Teia onto the scale for her examination.

After talking to Dyke about the children's progress, Giannone left for her next patient—all within 20 minutes.

Centre HomeCare is a non-profit visiting nurses association offering home health care in areas such as physical and occupational therapies, psychiatric nursing, hospice and maternal-child care.

According to a Centre Home Care publication, each year the organization provides up to \$150,000 of "charitable care or care based on a sliding-fee scale." Tammy Emigh, manager of

Centre HomeCare, said Medicare and Medicaid may cover home care costs. Private health insurance may also cover costs, she said, adding that there are also self-pay patients.

Patients are referred to the agency by hospitals, doctors or their own families, she said. Most work is centered on intermittent care such as bathing or checking up on patients, she said.

"Most of it is to get people back on their feet and keep them in their own environment," Emigh said.

David E. Snell of Lemont sat quietly in his wheelchair, his limp left arm tucked into his shirt collar, waiting patiently for a visit from his Centre HomeCare occupational therapist, Sue Osborne.

Occupational therapy helps people resume daily functions such as dressing and feeding after an illness or accident has caused physical limitations for them.

Last August, Snell suffered a stroke that left the left side of his body paralyzed.

He was released from Nittany Valley Rehabilitation Hospital in Pleasant Gap after one month, but his recovery process did not end there. Three times a week, Osborne visits him in his home to help him regain strength and movement in his left arm.

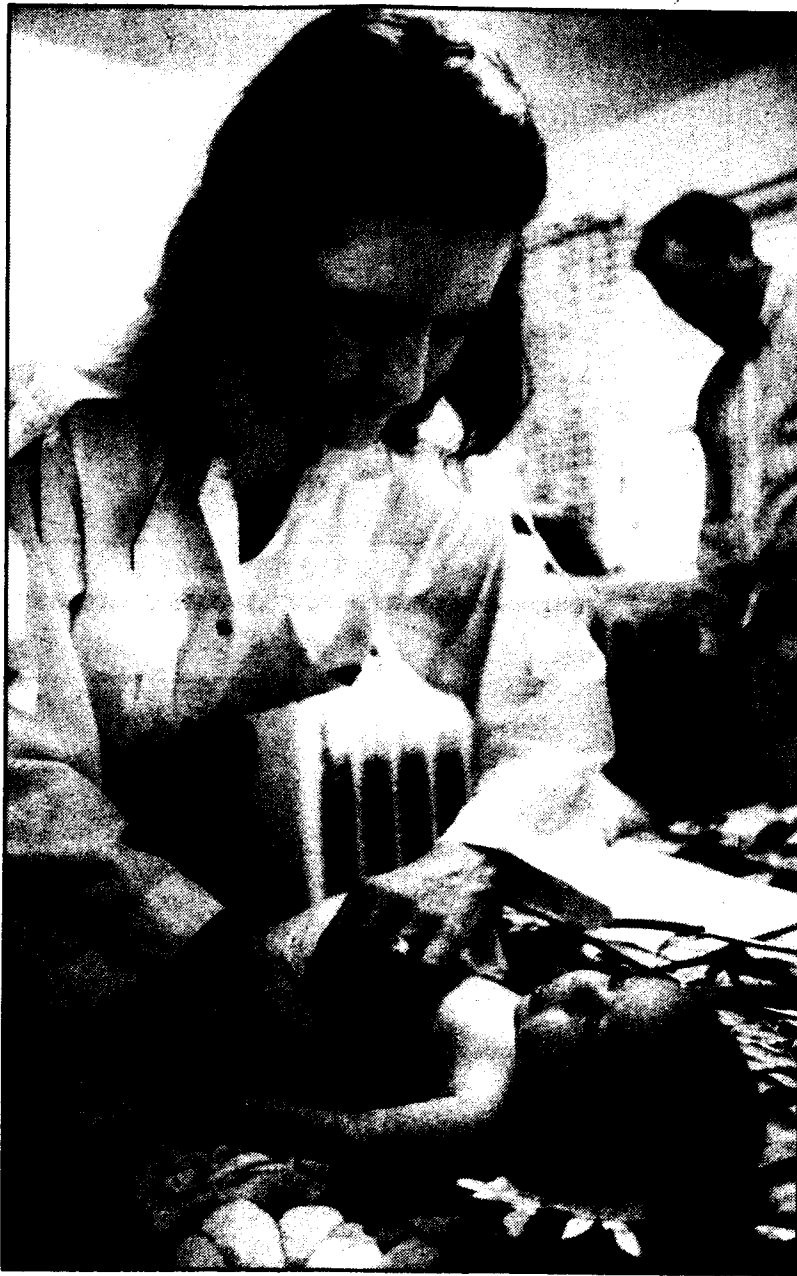
After several months of in-home therapy with both Osborne and a separate physical therapist, Snell, a retired curator for the University's Earth and Mineral Sciences Museum, regained enough movement in his left leg to walk with the aid of a walker.

Snell said if he didn't have Osborne and the other therapist come to his home, he would probably just do without the therapy.

"You would be on your own trying to figure out what to do," he said.

When Osborne arrived, Snell and his wife Joann greeted her like a family member. Osborne chatted briefly with Snell before starting the therapy.

She guided Snell's arm through motions designed to strengthen muscles and loosen joints. As she gently lifted Snell's arm over his



Gay Giannone, a Centre HomeCare nurse, at work tending to newborn Hesaneh Tabatabaifar of State College.

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— Tammy Emigh
Centre HomeCare manager

head, he grimaced in pain. Osborne said the exercises hurt because Snell's muscles have tightened since the stroke.

The purpose of the therapy is to try to "retrain nerves and muscles to work again," she said.

Osborne has worked in a hospital but said she prefers home care because at home the patient is in charge, not the therapist.

"That is wonderful for recovery," she said.

At home, the patient can be involved in a variety of activities

with family involvement, she said.

"The beauty of home care is that you can go into your house and get all the care that you need," Osborne said, calling it a "real" situation.

Snell added that "practical" was a better term.

Joann Snell said she prefers having therapists come to the home over her husband staying in a hospital.

"It's tremendous having him at home," she said.

Paramount saga continues; QVC extends takeover offer

By SKIP WOLLENBERG
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK — QVC Network Inc. extended its tender offer for Paramount Communications Inc. yesterday until Jan. 21 despite complaints that rival suitor Viacom Inc. had violated bidding procedures.

Viacom insisted its new offer for Paramount was a sufficient improvement over its earlier proposal to warrant reopening the bidding process for the coveted movie and TV producer and publishing concern.

But Wall Street turned thumbs down on the stocks of all three companies as trading resumed for the first time since Viacom's new offer was disclosed late Friday. It was clear no end is in sight in the four-month takeover drama.

On the New York Stock Exchange, Paramount fell \$1.87½ to \$77.37½. QVC fell \$1.50 to \$39.25 on the Nasdaq Stock Market, while Viacom's Class B shares were off \$2.75 at \$38.25 on the American Stock Exchange.

Securities analysts say QVC, a West Chester, Pa.-based cable shopping channel operator, has the more valuable bid for Paramount despite the revised offer from Viacom, which owns MTV, Showtime and other cable channels.

Both companies are offering combinations of cash and stock for Paramount, which owns a major Hollywood studio, the Simon & Schuster book publishing operation and two New York sports teams, the Rangers and Knicks.

The new Viacom bid contains about \$700 million more in cash than QVC's offer does, but analysts say the stock portion of the bid from Viacom is worth much less than QVC has proposed.

The Paramount board, which already has embraced the QVC bid, plans to meet tomorrow to consider the latest Viacom offer.

The bidding was to have expired early last Saturday, but Viacom revised its offer late Friday and extended the bidding for another 10 business days.

QVC, led by former Paramount movies boss Barry Diller, said in extending its tender offer that it would tell the Paramount board that Viacom had "violated the bidding procedures" that they had agreed to last month and would ask the board to "take appropriate action."

The company did not elaborate but said previously the new

Viacom offer was inferior to QVC's bid.

"QVC will await the action of the Paramount board on Wednesday before deciding what additional action to take," the company said in a statement.

It said about 26.8 million Paramount shares, or about 22 percent of Paramount's total, were tendered under its offer as of this past weekend.

Viacom, controlled by billionaire Sumner Redstone, boosted the cash portion of its bid for 50.1 percent of Paramount's shares by 23.5 percent to \$105 a share from \$85.

QVC is offering \$92 a share for just over half of Paramount's shares.

But analysts say the stock Viacom has offered in the second part of its deal is worth far less than what QVC has offered.

Viacom officials estimated Friday in a conference call with analysts that the overall value of its new bid was \$79.23 a share at Friday's closing prices.

Liz Barron, analyst for S.G. Warburg, said by midday yesterday, the new Viacom bid was worth about \$76 a share, while QVC's offer was worth just more than \$82.

With about 121 million shares of Paramount outstanding, Viacom's offer would be worth about \$9.2 billion while QVC's offer would be worth about \$9.9 billion.

At a media conference in California yesterday, Redstone argued Viacom's bid has a clear advantage in cash and noted that QVC had touted its cash component when Viacom was offering less cash.

"Cash is king," he was quoted in a prepared remarks. "And the reason for this as you all understand is that cash is the only thing you can measure with certainty."

The price of stock in the offers rises and falls, he said, because of the fast-changing perceptions of who will win Paramount. He said those fluctuations do not reflect the long-term value of a proposed combination of companies.

But Warburg's Barron said the cash component was more important when the securities offered in the second portion of the buyout bids were relatively even. She said QVC's stock portion is so far ahead of what Viacom has offered that investors are now looking at the total value of the competing offers.

"My read is that Viacom will come back with another bid," she said.

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