November 11, 2021

Visiting Nurse Service of New York
107 East 70th Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10021

Dear Friends:

I congratulate the Visiting Nurse Service of New York (VNSNY) on 128 years of providing compassionate care to New Yorkers on the occasion of your 2021 Gala. The largest not-for-profit provider of home- and community-based health care in the nation, VNSNY does an outstanding job providing invaluable service to nearly 40,000 individuals and families throughout New York State every day.

VNSNY has provided a safety net for the most vulnerable members of our society since its founding on Manhattan’s Lower East Side in 1893 by Lillian Wald, a pioneer in the fields of social reform, nursing, and public health. As chair of the Assembly Health Committee, I know its work well. It has been an innovator in nursing care; prenatal, maternal and child health; elder care; chronic disease care; physical therapy; behavioral health care; home health services; and hospice and palliative care.

This year, VNSNY proved again how vital it is to the health of New York. Throughout the COVID-19 epidemic, VNSNY provided care to over 6,500 COVID positive New Yorkers, while also maintaining expert health services for tens of thousands of patients and plan members. VNSNY continues to play a vital role in preventing the spread of COVID by keeping vulnerable individuals and COVID positive patients safe in their homes, and vaccinating thousands of frontline staff and homebound New Yorkers.

I join the friends, supporters, and employees of VNSNY in recognizing the achievements of this year’s distinguished Lillian D. Wald Awardees Adam Boehner, Founder & CEO of Rubicon Founders; Emily Rafferty, President Emerita of The Metropolitan Museum of Art; and John Rafferty, Member and Former Chair of the VNSNY Board of Directors in recognition of their significant contributions to the health and welfare of others.

Congratulations to the Visiting Nurse Service of New York on another great year fulfilling your mission, and my best wishes for an enjoyable evening!

Very truly yours,

Richard N. Gottfried
Chair
Assembly Committee on Health