

## SHORTCUTS

# GIVING BACK



Photo: Kelli Uldall

## VNA Provides Health Services for Seven Decades

BY RENEE BRINCKS

**Marquita Okaru, Corey Young, Jane Russo, Sandy Chamberlain and Melissa Dausen of the Central Coast VNA & Hospice celebrate 70 years of the local nonprofit.**

On the eve of its 70th anniversary, Central Coast VNA & Hospice moved from outlining celebrations to launching COVID-19 testing and immunization services. The organization's clinicians also became a vital source of communication and comfort.

"The VNA works closely with many of the area's skilled nursing and residential facilities. When families couldn't visit, I could often have a nurse check in on someone. We became the conduit between family and patient," says Tina Del Piero, VNA Director of Fund Development.

That dedication has defined the VNA since 1951. The organization assists clients at all ages, delivering school health care, home health assistance, end-of-life planning and

care, and continuing health care education. Some 220 employees and 40 volunteers support the nonprofit, which also collaborates with Meals on Wheels, Alliance on Aging and other partners.

"We coordinate and connect with resources to best serve our patients, and our team works hard every day to provide specialized, individualized care. It's all based on trust and compassion," says VNA Chief Executive Officer Jane Russo. "That's what our business is about. We're providing human care to other people."

*Central Coast VNA & Hospice celebrates 70 years on June 26 with food trucks and drive-in showing of the movie "50 First Dates." For details, and to support the organization, visit [ccvna.com](http://ccvna.com).*