

HUNTINGTON NOW

East Northport Woman Named Nurse of the Year at VNS Health



Pam Robinson, May 20, 2026

An East Northport woman with more than four decades of service in the home health care field has been named nurse of the year at VNS [Health](#).

Jane Reilly, an RN and clinical care manager, was cited for the compassion, flexibility, and teamwork she brings to her work.

Her roots in home health care run deep, having grown up in a family that cared for loved ones at home.

“I grew up surrounded by caregivers, my grandparents needed home care. It’s how we were raised, to care for each other,” she said.

In her work with VNS Health, helping families in Queens and Long Island, she locates services, nurses and aides, approves all orders and assigns nurses to perform tasks that help keep people in their homes and out of hospitals or other facilities. Some of her work involves finding precisely which of the many programs is right for the individual. That might mean dealing with someone who has had a fall, needs an infusion or requires a change in assistance; it could mean teaching someone how to care for a relative. And helping families understand how much work is required to keep ailing relatives in their homes.

“Sometimes family members think they can care for a member, and what it takes to bring someone home from the hospital, but not all care is set up for them. We support them,” she said.

“We bring the care into the home, that might be available in the hospital but a nurse is there every day” to make patients more comfortable and ensure safety.

While the agency provides services to people of all ages, the growing older population often prefers to remain in their homes where they can live independently yet often need regular, sometimes complex, care from a professional. The services often are requested by discharge planners at hospitals or other care facilities for patients who might need nurses, home health aides, physical therapy or other care.

“I enjoy it, I still get excited about it, to figure out how to help people,” she said.

She was chosen for the recognition by her colleagues at VNS Health.

HuntingtonNow is an independent, online newspaper, covering government and politics, the eight public school districts as well as other schools, cultural and entertainment news, business, police and justice, happenings around Huntington and Suffolk County, and human-interest stories. It reaches an approximate audience of 43,476 through their website and social media.