



Visiting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago

Spring 2017

*"The leaves of the tree
were for the healing
of the nations"*

- Rev. 22:2

What We Offer

- Loaning & assistance with mobility aids & rental of moveable beds
- Meal preparation, food modification, & special feeding
- Bed care
- Assistance with bathing & dressing
- Nail care
- Cleansing and covering wounds
- Reading from the Bible and the writings of Mary Baker Eddy
- Mother and infant care
- Transportation to an accredited Christian Science nursing facility if needed
- Financial assistance with home Christian Science nursing
- Respite for those caring for a loved one
- Want to learn more?
VisitingCSNursingChicago.org

Hill Top Center held its Annual Meeting on Sunday, November 6, 2016 at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Naperville, Illinois. This newsletter consists of the reports of the President, Director of Christian Science Nursing and the Treasurer. We are pleased to include as an insert the talk by Christine Hein, Director of Christian Science Nursing at Tenacre Foundation in Princeton, New Jersey.

President's Report

For those of you who are joining us for the first time, let me give you a little background. Hill Top Center is the parent corporation for Visiting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago. Our primary mission is to provide Christian Science nursing in the Chicago area. Our primary area of service is the six-county metropolitan area, but we also have served patients in northwest Indiana, southwest Michigan, southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois past Rockford. No one is turned down because they are not able to pay. At this time, approximately 70% of our service is benevolence.

Our secondary mission is to help educate new Christian Science nurses. We have provided financial support to nurses during their training and mentored newly trained nurses to help them achieve Journal-listing.

In February 2014, our service opened for business with one Journal-listed Christian Science nurse. Initially, calls for help were rare. While there have been a few bumps along the road, overall our progress has been phenomenal. Today, we employ three Journal-listed Christian Science nurses.

Bonnie Mitchinson has been with us for two years and is now our Director of Christian Science Nursing. Bonnie is well-known in the Chicago field. She has done both facility and visiting Christian Science nursing since the late 1970s. She received her training at Hill Top Center and has been Journal-listed for 10 years. She just completed a term on the board of directors of the Christian Science Nursing Network.

Karina Lizarazo joined us after receiving her training at Fern Lodge. Bonnie mentored her, and she has now been Journal-listed for one year.

Sharon Langston joined us this summer. She has been Journal-listed for six years and has a wide variety of experience. Most recently she nursed at Lynn House in Virginia.

2016 has been an exciting year for us. The major achievement is that in June we received our accreditation from The Commission for Accreditation of Christian Science Nursing Organizations and Facilities. But, that was just the culmination of two years of work.

Members of the Board and the Christian Science nurses began the accreditation process more than a year ago by preparing a 20-page self-study consisting of more

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President's Report *continued*

than 60 questions about our practices and procedures. Many of these questions showed that the Board needed to consider particular issues and develop policies to deal with those issues.

In early 2016, the Christian Science nurses and Board members met with a consultant who made suggestions on how to improve both the care we provide and the structure of our organization. The next step was the visit by our accreditor, a seasoned Director of Christian Science Nursing. She met with the Christian Science nurses and Board members over a period of two days in March. Her requests for documentation and the preliminary report showed us where we needed improvement. The Board and Christian Science nurses made further changes to our procedures.

The result was that in June, The Commission concluded that we were in compliance with the standards and granted us the full three-year unconditional accreditation.

Many people were important to the process, but one person deserves a special thank you. That is Cadi Nones. Without her vision and determination to make Christian Science nursing available to all in the Chicago metropolitan area, we would not be here today.

There's more that we're doing in 2016. We will implement a web-based tool to reduce administrative time and strengthen communications for Christian Science nurses. In addition, this web-based tool will provide information on current visiting Christian Science nursing needs and insight into other future options.

Our goal for 2017 is to improve the ways that we can

better serve the Chicago community's Christian Science nursing needs. We will continue our program of training nurses, consider additional staffing, and undertake to improve our communication with the field.

First, we plan to meet with all Christian Science churches in the Chicago area to understand firsthand your current and future concerns and needs for Christian Science nursing in your areas. This also gives us an opportunity to answer any questions you might have about the scope of our services.

Second, we will be in contact with individual church care committees to hear from them ideas they have on how we can work together to meet the needs of your members.

Third, we are updating our mailing list. If you didn't receive our newsletter, please give us your email or post office address on the signup sheet in the lobby. If you know someone who would like to receive our newsletter, please ask them to be in touch directly with us.

Finally, we will be improving our website. Our goal is to make information and access clear and readily available to Christian Scientists and their families who may have a need for Christian Science nursing care.

This past year has been busy behind the scenes, as we worked on staffing, our accreditation, and our back office project. This coming year we look forward to the opportunity to meet with you all more often and together to develop plans for the years ahead. We hope you will be in touch with any of us on the Board if you have questions and concerns that have not been answered today.

Ardath Hamann



Christian Science Nursing Director's Report

2016 has been another year full of wonderful Christian Science nursing in the greater Chicago area. We have visited a total of 24 people in their homes, resulting in 20 of those people receiving Christian Science nursing from our service. Of these 20 Christian Science nursing patients, 14 of them were new patients this year. Three other people received information over the phone, but did not become patients. We had three patients who needed 24 hour care, so we transported two of them to Peace Haven Christian Science Nursing Facility in St. Louis, Missouri and one to Beacon Haven Christian Science Nursing Facility in New Brighton, Minnesota. All three of these patients made progress and returned to their homes. Another of our patients decided to move permanently to Peace Haven.

This year, we also provided mentorship to one student Christian Science nurse who became listed in the Christian

Science Journal in March.

It was our greatest joy to witness some wonderful healings this year. We provided Christian Science nursing to a patient who was healed of a growth on her back. We also saw several patients experience renewed strength and improved balance. A painful shoulder was healed after a patient had fallen. Another patient was healed of pain. We saw two patients healed of mental challenges. A patient regained her ability to hear again after she seemed to be totally deaf for one month. We also saw a quick healing of a gash in the head after a fall.

I would like to share two short notes of gratitude I recently received from patients. The first one said, "I wish to express my most profound gratitude for Visting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago. They came to my aid when I was in a great human need in the wee

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Christian Science Nursing Director's Report *continued*

hours of the morning. They continue to meet my human need while supporting me with metaphysical truths. I also wish to thank the Board of Directors for their provision of benevolence. Due to the benevolence, I continue to receive the Christian Science nursing care I need."

The second note said, "Please let me express my gratitude to the Board of Directors for granting benevolent Christian Science nursing care to my wife and myself, without which we would not receive the loving care of the visiting Christian Science nurses. We are also grateful for the love, care, and dedication expressed by all the Christian Science nurses. They joyfully reflect Divine Mind and limitless love, tirelessly lifting our thought from sense to what we really reflect."

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve God and the cause of Christian Science in my work with Visiting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago this past year. I wish to thank the Christian Science practitioners and other members of the Chicago Christian Science field

for their dedication and support.

In closing, I would like to say that truly I feel our work together has fulfilled the mission Jesus provided us when he said in *Matthew 25:34-40*:

Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in; Naked and ye clothed me; I was sick and ye visited me; I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? Or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

Bonnie Mitchinson



Financial Report

I will report on the operating results and financial position for 2016 through September 30 in comparison to the same period in 2015.

Our Net Investment Income for 2016 was \$255,000, compared to a loss of \$64,000 in 2015. We have modified our asset allocation to increase our equity portion over time from 25% to approach 50%. Although this will add more volatility, it should provide greater net income.

Contributions in 2016 were \$112,000 compared to \$20,000 in 2015, principally due to a one-time gift of \$90,000 from the Arlington Heights church.



Attendees at the Annual Meeting

of \$17,000 of which an estimated \$5,000 was benevolence. Gross patient care revenue increased \$53,000 and reflects the increase in the number of visits and number of Christian Science nurses we employ.

Patient Care revenue in 2016 was \$70,000 of which \$48,000 (66%) was benevolence compared to 2015 revenue

2016 Operating expense was \$176,000 compared to 2015 at \$147,000. The largest increase is in patient care expenses of which mileage reimbursement is the primary cause. Mileage is high because we cover a large geographical area. Operating expenses including benevolence exceeded patient revenue by \$155,000 in 2016. But, that \$155,000 loss was offset by our investment income and contributions. This is consistent with our financial model which relies on endowment income to subsidize Christian Science nursing care and Christian Science nurses' training.

Net assets in 2016, driven by the increase in net investment income and contributions, increased \$213,000 compared to the loss of \$180,000 in 2015. It is important to note that with the variability of the investment markets, we can expect to see this fluctuation in the future.

Looking forward into 2017, we hope to add an additional Christian Science nurse so that we can increase the number of people we can help. This will of course increase our costs.

John Nitschke



Visiting Christian Science Nursing
Care of Greater Chicago LLC

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Heather Sholeen, Office Manager

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**We hope you enjoy this
summary of our Annual
Meeting.**

**It includes the talk given by
Christine Hein, Director of
Christian Science Nursing at
Tenacre Foundation.**

**If you have questions about our
current activities, any Board
Member will be happy
to answer them.**

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Visit our website at www.VisitingCSNursingChicago.org