



# Visiting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago

Spring 2018

*"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](http://VisitingCSNursingChicago.org)

## True Benevolence Cannot Be One-Sided

The word "benevolence" often implies giving money. But, various dictionaries define benevolence as "a disposition to do good; an act of kindness," and a "desire to do good to others; good will or charitableness." The word money is not even used in these definitions. Mary Baker Eddy encourages us to "resolve[ ] things into thoughts." (*Science and Health* 269:9) So what is a more spiritual concept of benevolence?

In *Miscellaneous Writings*, Eddy writes, "The human affections need to be changed from self to benevolence and love for God and man; changed to having but one God and loving Him supremely, and helping our brother man. This change of heart is essential to Christianity ..." (*Mis.* 50:29). She tells us that benevolence is a goal, and it is equal to love for God and man.

What is that benevolence and love for God and man? Jesus says that we must "love one another." (*John* 13:34) But, that "[l]ove cannot be a mere abstraction, or goodness without activity and power. As a human quality, the glorious significance of affection is more than words: it is the tender, unselfish deed done in secret; ... the gentle hand opening the door that turns toward want and woe, sickness and sorrow, and thus lighting the dark places of earth." (*Mis.* 250:14) Benevolence is not just a nice thought; it must be acted upon.

Equally important, love must have a recipient as well as a giver. An expanded sense of God, Love requires us to not only express love, but see it expressed in our experience by accepting love. True benevolence cannot be one-sided. As Love includes both the lover and the loved, benevolence includes both the giver and the receiver. The story of the loaves and fishes can be seen as an expression of Jesus' benevolence. His benevolence fed the multitude to meet both a spiritual and human need. The multitude received his benevolence, and they were both fed human food and spiritual inspiration.

How has Visiting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago put this expansive concept of benevolence into practice? Since our opening, our most important goal has been to make sure that visiting Christian Science nursing is available to all in Chicago who need it. While we bill for our services, if your current circumstances make it difficult to pay your bill, we treat the unpaid portion as benevolence. We don't want anyone to fail to request Christian Science nursing care because of fear of the cost.

Our endowment is the result of generous contributions by many Christian Scientists. Those who have donated want their gifts to be used and valued. So, if you have a need, let God meet that need through our benevolence fund. Accepting benevolence and then expressing gratitude for that gift fulfills the Manual requirement that "Gratitude and love should abide in every heart each day of all the years." (*Man.* 60:15-17) And we know that gratitude is a powerful force for healing.

- Board of Directors

# President's Report

*Hill Top Center held its Annual Meeting on November 5, 2017 at First Church of Christ, Scientist, Barrington, Illinois. This newsletter consists of the reports of the President, Director of Christian Science Nursing and the Treasurer.*

"[P]rogress is the law of God, whose law demands of us only what we can certainly fulfill." (Science and Health 232:32)

We are so grateful for the continuing progress of the Visiting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago. In 2016, the service made a major leap forward when we were accredited for a full 3-year term. The progress during 2017 has been more subtle but just as important and real. The progress this year has come in the form of stability. This is the end of our fourth year as a visiting Christian Science nursing service. As indicated in the treasurer's report, we are financially stable. Our board and management team has been in place for more than two years. Our charting/document system has been in use for about a year. Finally, and most importantly, for 18 months we have been fully staffed with three Journal-listed Christian Science nurses.

As outlined in the report of the Director of Christian Science Nursing, we have increased the number of patients for whom we provide care. In addition, we have increasingly assisted those seeking admission to Christian Science facilities.

Each nurse attended a conference or training last year. These occasions provide valuable peer-to-peer experience for visiting Christian Science nurses.

The upcoming year promises to bring new opportunities and challenges. We are very grateful for your continued prayerful support of the service.

Ardath Hamann

## Financial Report

I will report on the operating results and financial position for 2016 and the year-to-date through September 30, 2017.

Our financial statements are audited by Kessler, Orleans and Silver. We again received an unqualified opinion for 2016 which means that the auditors had no issues with our financial statements.

Our business model relies on investment income to subsidize nursing care, and to a lesser extent, nurses training. While we bill \$50/hour for the time we are at the patient's residence, we do not charge for travel. Travel expense is substantial given the large geographic area we cover.

Nursing care revenue in 2017 was \$81,000 of which \$57,000 (70%) was benevolence. This is an \$11,000 increase in nursing revenue over 2016 and reflects an increase in the number of available nurses and patient visits.

Contributions in 2017 were \$16,000 compared to \$112,000 in

2016, principally due to a one-time gift of \$90,000.

Investment income in 2017 was \$422,000 compared to \$255,000 in 2016.

Operating expense was 222,000 in 2017, compared to \$176,000 in 2016. The largest increase is in nursing care expenses of which mileage reimbursement is the primary cause.

Net assets as of 9/30/2017 were \$5.6 million compared to \$5.4 million as of 12/31/2016. Assets are comprised of cash, bonds and equities. We have modified our asset allocation to increase our equity portion to approach 55%. This has enabled us to participate more fully in the recent stock market rise.

Looking forward to 2018, we hope to add an additional Christian Science nurse. Although this will increase our costs, it will increase the number of people we can assist.

John Nitschke



## Annual Meeting Attendees



# Director of Christian Science Nursing Report

It is a privilege to share with you today the spiritual growth and progress that I have seen this year in both our patients and our dedicated visiting Christian Science nurses.

Once again it has been a year full of wonderful activity! We have provided visiting Christian Science nursing in the homes of 28 patients. We also provided Christian Science nursing information over the phone to three families. In addition to these people, we visited three homes and one church to provide information on Christian Science nursing. Of the 28 patients who received our visiting Christian Science nursing, 20 of them were new patients this year and eight were patients who had received our services during 2016. Each week we averaged 19 home visits to seven patients.

Our visiting Christian Science nurses had the opportunity to grow professionally as well as spiritually this year. I am grateful that the board of Visiting Christian Science Nursing Care of Greater Chicago sent me to Phoenix, Arizona in May to attend the conference of the Association of Christian Science Nursing Facilities and Organizations. There I learned about new ways to fund Christian Science nursing and listened to managers share their insights on how to meet the challenges facing our Christian Science nursing organizations. I was so inspired to learn of the great dedication of these managers and the renewal going on in some of our Christian Science nursing facilities.

The board also sent Christian Science Nurse Karina Lizarazo to a class taught by Peace Haven Association on the campus of Principia College. This class prepared Karina to assist with Christian Science home births. I have located a licensed midwife service and a doctor who are willing to work with us on home or hospital births. In speaking to expectant mothers, I have found that most of them don't ask a Christian Science nurse to assist with the birth of their child because they think a Christian Science nurse would be too expensive. So please help me in spreading the word that there are several foundations that can pay for a Christian Science nurse who assists with the birth of a baby in the Chicago area or to assist a family at home after a baby has been born.

The board also sent Christian Science nurse Sharon Langston to the International Christian Science Nursing Conference held in September at Cedars Camps in Lebanon, Missouri. This was the first time Sharon had attended the conference. There she got to hear about what is going on in Christian Science nursing not only in the United States, but also in other countries. She met fellow Christian Science nurses as well as visiting Christian Science nurses from all over the world and across the United States. In addition to hearing inspirational metaphysical talks from Christian Science practitioners, she learned about new products and equipment available to help Christian Science nursing patients. She also heard updates from The Mother Church regarding laws pertaining to Christian Science nursing and also learned about the new National Fund for Christian Science Nursing.

I wish to thank some of our fellow Christian Science nursing facilities, foundations, and organizations which helped us with patients who required special equipment or 24-hour Christian Science nursing this year. It has been wonderful to partner with these organizations to meet the needs of some of our patients. These include Clearview Home Corporation in Delafield, Wisconsin which took six of our patients, and Peace

Haven Association in St. Louis, which took one patient. Jacob's Ladder, a nation-wide placement service, provided 24-hour in-home private duty Christian Science nursing to three of our patients. Homecrest Foundation in St. Charles, Illinois gave a very generous grant to one of our patients to improve her home so that she could remain living there. And just last week, the Principle Foundation in Kansas City, gave a grant to one of our patients who had an immediate need for special equipment.

Our greatest joy this year has been to witness tremendous progress in some of our patients as well as wonderful complete Christian Science healings. Just a few of these include a patient who called while she was staying with a relative. She was feeling ill and frightened and almost unable to get out of bed or eat. One of our Christian Science nurses visited her and helped her to shower, dress, and eat a meal. The next day she called to say she was completely healed and four days later gave a beautiful testimony about her healing in church.

Another healing was of a woman whose son called us very concerned because his mother had not slept in days and was hallucinating and talking to people who were not there. After 48 hours of working with a Christian Science practitioner and visiting Christian Science nurses, her mental state returned to normal and has remained normal.

Another case that came to us was when one of our patients that we had been visiting once a week was taken to a hospital in what appeared to be an unconscious state after her neighbors found her on the floor of her home. Our Christian Science nurses visited her each day in the hospital and obtained permission to feed her and read to her. Her Christian Science practitioner also visited her in the hospital. After several days of meetings with doctors and the hospital social worker, permission was granted to move the patient home and place her into the care of Christian Science nurses.

She returned home by ambulance and we provided continuous 24-hour Christian Science nursing to her for five days until she was moved to Clearview in Wisconsin. I have since heard that she is able to talk and be out of bed.

I am also grateful to the Board of Directors for always responding quickly when there is a need for prayer to support our visiting Christian Science nurses. The loving work done this year by our Christian Science nurses can be summarized in these words from Miscellaneous Writings by Mary Baker Eddy: "Love is not something put upon a shelf, to be taken down on rare occasions with sugar-tongs and laid on a rose-leaf." "Love cannot be a mere abstraction, or goodness without activity and power. As a human quality, the glorious significance of affection is more than words: it is the tender, unselfish deed done in secret; the silent, ceaseless prayer; the self-forgetful heart that overflows; the veiled form stealing on an errand of mercy, out of a side door; the little feet tripping along the sidewalk; the gentle hand opening the door that turns toward want and woe, sickness and sorrow, and thus lighting the dark places of earth." (Mis. 250:14)

Thank you for coming today to share in the joy of the work we have done this year.

Bonnie Mitchinson

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  
Craig L. Ghislin, C.S.**

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

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