



Making Christian Science nursing available to every child, man and woman seeking healing

Board Report for 2017

We continue to work hard to fulfill our mission statement, "Making Christian Science nursing available to every child, man and woman seeking healing."

Over the past few years we have done a lot of thinking, researching, and implementing to be the most useful we can be to our Christian Science church communities in Florida. Last year's board report summarized the many ideas we have explored, what was implemented, and our successes. Over the past year we have continued to refine our operations - benevolence, on-call CS nursing, and training (education and awareness). We are delighted with the positive feedback we have been receiving from those participating in these programs.

We will soon be conducting a strategic planning meeting to confirm our primary mission components and to realign our bylaws and policies to support them. Your ideas and comments today during our break out session and over the next 3 weeks will be very helpful to this process.

We cannot thank you enough for all your wonderful support and love. It is foundational to the grace and compassion essential to Christian healing. The care and interest of our Christian Science field - church members, practitioners, and Christian Science nurses - have been instrumental in moving us all forward.

Here are some highlights of the past year:

- **Benevolence Fund:** Our Benevolence Fund continues to fill a need for patients by providing financial support in order for them to afford Christian Science nursing care. Over the past three years we have awarded over \$50,000. We have helped those receiving care in their own homes and at Daystar Christian Science Nursing Facility near Fort Lauderdale. In some cases this is the only way they would be able to avail themselves of Christian Science healing.
- **On-Call CS Nurse:** We have contracted with one of our CS Journal-listed nurses to assist Florida patients, practitioners, and family members in finding CS nursing care services. Many patients have greatly benefited from this service by having an experienced Christian Science nurse available to help them with the sometimes complicated and time-consuming task of finding a CS nurse. It has also proved to be a

valuable support to Christian Science nurses who are ready and waiting to assist the next patient.

- **Training Program:** We continue to receive a generous grant from one of our churches in Florida to fund Christian Science nursing training, including training for church members, those assisting nurses, CS Journal-listed and non-listed Christian Science nurses throughout Florida. The program includes church community workshops, initial CS nursing case assessments, and training to an appropriate level of those providing patient care - all free of charge to both the training providers and recipients. We recently conducted seven workshops in Christian Science church communities throughout the state addressing the topics of "caregiving" and the "art of visiting." A new topic is already being developed for the coming year.
- **Extended Commute Benevolence (ECB):** We continue to maintain a benevolence program for CS nurses who go "the extra mile" to serve patients outside of their normal commuting range. Providing travel assistance to nurses helps keep CS nursing care costs down for those in remote areas who might not otherwise be served. This has been a very significant source of support for our CS nurses in Florida, who would either have to decline the case or accept it without reasonable travel reimbursement.
- **Support to Other Organizations:** We have received several calls over the past year to present at conferences or to boards of Christian Science nursing organizations. The word is getting out and people are finding that some of the services that we are providing in Florida are a benefit to their area as well.

Thanks again for your loving thoughts, prayers, and donations. We see their uplifting effect in our churches and in our communities.

Lovingly submitted,

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Chairman of the Board

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Rob Van Der Like

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