

Centennial Retrospective

Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc.

A Legacy of Caring

AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY, southeastern New England bustled. Vast granite mills dominated the city skylines. Industry was booming, the railroads and waterfronts shipping iron, textiles, and silver goods to points across the nation and beyond.

Immigrants arrived daily, seeking to build a better life for their families in these growing cities, where mill laborers were always in demand. The work they found here was plentiful, but harsh. The industries demanded long hours from their workforce, the bulk of whom were assigned to physically demanding tasks that were monotonous and often dangerous.

Workplace safety had not yet come under strong public scrutiny or governmental regulation. Year in and year out, men, women and children endured stifling heat, poor ventilation, dangerous machinery and noxious fumes, conditions that posed serious hazards to laborers' health. For far too many, living conditions were far from optimal. Subsisting on meager wages, working class families crowded into poorer neighborhoods, where even the basic necessities for good health — adequate nutrition, heated rooms, proper hygiene and sanitation — were in short supply.

A newspaper report of the time cited sobering statistics: "In the whole of Massachusetts there were 75,000 children born in 1905, 1000 of whom died before they were a year old. A great majority of these deaths result from preventable causes, diseases due to improper feeding, lung diseases due to bad ventilation, improper clothing and undue exposure being the chief factors."

As the statistics for disease and death rose to alarming proportions, the need for community action became impossible to ignore. In December 1905, a group of Taunton women gathered at the home of Miss Kate I. Sanford to discuss the growing public health need and how they might best affect change for the community's betterment. Mrs. Walter C. Baylies addressed the group, presenting a paper that portrayed the work of a visiting nurse and recommending that they form a similar association. By the end of the afternoon, an Executive Committee had been elected, and the work of the past 100 years was born.

On December 6, 1905, the Taunton Daily Gazette announced the Committee's plans to improve the public health in an article entitled "Visiting Nurse for Taunton."

"The duty of this nurse is to care for the sick in their homes, going from house to house, visiting and relieving many patients in the course of a day... Moreover, she instructs the families she visits to take better care of themselves, showing them how to obey the laws of wholesome living, and giving them object lessons in the simpler arts of domestic nursing. Thus, not only does she relieve suffering, but she promotes health and prevents the spread of disease. This instructive visiting work requires a nurse possessed of character, judgment and tact, besides a strong physique, a thorough technical training and some previous experience in this special line of nursing."

The article noted that \$800 would be needed to fund the first year's efforts—\$600 for a nurse's salary, and an additional \$200 to cover a "loan closet" and supplies, a nurse's bag and its contents, and electric car fares. Although the organization was barely more than a few days old, it had already garnered vitally needed community support; the article states that "sufficient subscriptions have already been received to justify the hope of raising the amount named above."

The article's subheading reads "Ladies Hope to Make a Success of a Very Practical Charity." From this vantage point one hundred years later, there is no question that the agency's founders far surpassed their original goal.



**The Second Century
Fund Campaign Brochure**
Visiting Nurse Association
of Southeastern
Massachusetts, Inc.

Since its earliest days, the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc. has embraced a singular, charitable mission — to bring care and compassion into the homes of those who need it most.

FOUNDED IN 1905, OUR HOME HEALTH AGENCY BEGAN ITS WORK by sending visiting nurses into the tenements and settlement houses of working class neighborhoods to care for the ill, injured and dying in our communities. This unique brand of care and comfort was extended to all who requested our help, regardless of their ability to pay for the services they received. Although the times and technologies may have changed, our dedication to our founding mission — and our patients — remains.

As we look back with pride upon a century of bringing quality home health care to the communities we serve, we renew our commitment to providing our patients with the best in home health care well into the future. We recognize that our agency's rich history of achievement in caring for the health and well-being of our neighbors would never have been possible without the concern and generosity of the many individuals, businesses and organizations throughout our communities that have supported this vital work.

Since the agency's founding 100 years ago, a wonderful tradition of community giving has always allowed us to put the needs of our patients first. Indeed, for the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc., charitable giving has been the foundation of our growth into one of the region's leading home health care providers today.

As we launch our second century of home health care, we again seek the support of our friends, neighbors and colleagues in our ongoing efforts to bring home the best in health care to our patients. Because many of our valuable home care services are not covered by traditional insurance plans, the Visiting Nurse Association of Southeastern Massachusetts, Inc. continues to rely upon generous community support to ensure that comprehensive home health care services are available to all who seek our agency's help.

Your charitable gift to The Second Century Fund will provide much-needed financial support for these programs and services, bringing the gifts of health care, comfort and healing to clients of all ages across southeastern Massachusetts and southern Rhode Island.



Magic at the Symphony Promotional Brochure Illusionist Lyn Dillies

SEEING, LISTENING, BELIEVING — the art of magic illuminates the magic of music. Magic at the Symphony sets some of the most breathtaking illusions in magic against the beauty and drama of symphonic classics to create a truly unique entertainment experience.

Magic at the Symphony melds the formidable talents of America's great orchestras with the mystery and grace of master illusionist Lyn Dillies, giving audiences an unforgettable new appreciation for the majesty of classical music.

A pioneer in her field, Lyn Dillies reigns as one of the few female illusionists in the world today. Deemed "America's Premier Female Illusionist" by the Society of American Magicians, Lyn stars nationwide at performing arts centers, resorts and corporate events. An accomplished stage performer for over 20 years, Lyn continues to reinvent her craft, bringing her signature style of magic to new creative and cultural arenas.

Magic at the Symphony has enjoyed sold-out performances at Lincoln Center and concert halls throughout the country. Build new audiences. Enliven existing audiences. Energize your symphony season with this exciting and powerful program. Lyn would love to share her magic with your symphony orchestra!

Magic at the Symphony is easy to present:

- Complete conductor's scores and orchestral parts are provided in advance
- Only one regular symphony rehearsal is required for the program
- The Maestro shares the spotlight as an integral part of Lyn's performance
- Opportunities for outreach and youth programs

Press Release
Saints Peter and Paul
Catholic School

**Progressive Curriculum Model at Saints Peter and Paul School
Designed to Foster Students' Optimal Academic Success**

Saints Peter and Paul School will pilot an innovative curriculum model this fall tailored to the academic needs and learning style of each individual student. Implementing state-of-the-art teaching practices that have fueled superior student achievement at schools on the West Coast and in New York, Saints Peter and Paul School will be the first elementary school in Greater Fall River to launch a school-wide curriculum model of this kind.

“Looking ahead to the future, we want to give our students the skills, knowledge and passion for learning they will need to excel in high school, college and their future careers,” said Miss Kathleen Burt, principal. “The strength of this new model is that it moves students beyond traditional classroom instruction and gives them hands-on learning experiences that really engage and ignite young minds.”

Diocesan School Superintendent Dr. Michael Griffin said, “We applaud the initiative of Principal Kathy Burt and the faculty of SS. Peter & Paul in pursuing this innovative approach to educating children in a model that opens paths to increasingly higher levels of achievement.”

With a wealth of career opportunities emerging in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), a key focus of the new curriculum will be to introduce young learners to engineering concepts and scientific problem-solving through STEM activities and programs. Burt said she and her faculty currently are networking with regional and state STEM initiatives to bring STEM-integrated learning projects to students at all grade levels.

Burt said that the new curriculum model will continue to embrace the strong educational traditions that have fostered academic excellence at Saints Peter and Paul School since 1923. Students will receive a solid academic foundation in all the traditional subject areas taught at the school.

The curriculum will align with Common Core Standards endorsed by the state of Massachusetts, ensuring that students master and build upon the academic skills expected for students at each grade level. Curriculum delivery will be enhanced by cutting-edge technology; iPads, as well as interactive lessons on the school's Smart Board, will become essential tools for everyday learning.

To teach concepts and ensure academic progress for each student, teaching teams will work with students in multi-age learning clusters based on their individual needs and skill development levels. Burt noted that a low student-to-teacher ratio is essential to the model's success. For the upcoming school year, she anticipates a 10:1 student-to-teacher ratio — ideal, Burt said, for the individualized nature of curriculum delivery.

“This model is a great fit for just about every student, no matter where a child performs academically,” said Burt. “It builds on individual strengths and works to close learning gaps so that each student can experience academic success. It also fosters curiosity, creativity and independent thinking, building a true love for learning in kids. We're bringing exciting new adventures in learning to St. Pete's, and we can't wait to get started!”

Feature Article

GasNetworks

GasNetworks® Technical School Outreach Program Brings Energy Efficiency Lessons to Tomorrow's Professionals

Starting this September, technical school students across Massachusetts will get a real-world introduction to energy-efficient building techniques through an innovative educational outreach program co-sponsored by GasNetworks.

Modeled on a pilot program launched in Rhode Island with great success last year, the Massachusetts Technical School Outreach Program will enhance traditional classroom learning through an array of hands-on activities and demonstrations led by industry professionals. The specialized curriculum will focus on energy efficiency concepts and their applications in the building industry, with the goal of promoting the value of energy-efficient building among today's students — the building professionals of tomorrow.

“The program provides an access for the utility to the front line,” said Paul Wolff, assistant project manager for Conservation Services Group (CSG), the energy services company that will implement the outreach program. “It's an important demographic to reach — the future generation of builders.”

The outreach initiative grew from the highly positive impact that simple classroom demonstrations generated among technical school students. CSG gave presentations using the I-SMART (Interactive Scale Model And Research Tool) House, a three-dimensional model home that pulls apart to reveal its structural and building components, giving students an up-close look at framing, insulation and air sealing techniques.

“It was a huge hit with the kids,” said Wolff. “They were asking questions and couldn't wait to see more.”

The Technical School Outreach Program includes ENERGY STAR® Homes workshops, hands-on learning activities with three-dimensional educational materials, and ongoing collaborative partnerships between technical schools and industry professionals.

The capstone event of the academic year is the program's “Learning Exchange,” a day-long educational conference that offers both students and instructors interactive learning opportunities administered by nationally acclaimed experts in the building industry. Earlier this year, students from participating regional technical schools across Rhode Island completed building assignments in advance and then put the structures through a series of testing and retrofitting exercises at the event. In one exercise, students applied different insulation materials to their structures, then tested each to see how it performed. “They got a real sense of some of the issues you encounter when using these products,” said Wolff.

Based on the success of the pilot program in Rhode Island, GasNetworks is looking forward to the launch of this innovative program at technical schools throughout Massachusetts.

“For GasNetworks, the program is a great opportunity to teach the importance of energy efficiency to the young people who are the future of the industry,” said Michael Sommer of Berkshire Gas, a GasNetworks member utility. “We believe it's a powerful program with far-reaching impact, and we're excited to bring it to Massachusetts students.”