

Clearview Home Executive Director Report 2023

Elizabeth Harned, Executive Director

Good afternoon, everyone, we are so glad you can join us here for the Annual Gathering. I'm Elizabeth Harned, Executive Director.

Recently in Peel's Years of Authority I was reminded why Mrs. Eddy was so adamant that the words Christian Science be included in the title of the Christian Science Monitor. Peel brought out that she was certain that "no human situation was beyond healing or rectification if approached with sufficient understanding of man's God-given potentialities." After I read that I thought well, that's true for the Christian Science nurse bylaw. Christian Science also identifies the role of the nurse as so much more than human caretaking. Mrs. Eddy's vision of true nursing still is so far ahead of mortal thinking. That's why we are here today to cherish and celebrate Mary Baker Eddy's Manual bylaw.

This past year has been very active and full of God's provision for Clearview Home. Shortly after our Annual Gathering last year we were challenged with staffing issues that concerned us so much that we made tentative plans to relocate patients – should we need to close. However, by August we welcomed a Journal-listed Christian Science nurse who was able to stay and work at Clearview through the beginning of this year. This provided the support we needed to give our regular staff the necessary time off, many of which had not had vacations for almost two years. We are so grateful for the temporary Journal-listed Christian Science nurses who have come to help in the past year. We are doubly grateful for our regular staff of Christian Science nurses who have helped to keep Clearview Home open and available for those relying on Christian Science for healing. Our staff is entering our second year of 12-hour shifts, and we look forward to adding more staff.

Staffing the Christian Science nursing department is one of the more aggressive challenges facing most Christian Science nursing facilities. Prior to the staffing challenges Clearview Home made a commitment to really value the role of the Christian Science nurse. In the last five years we've increased starting wages for Journal-listed Christian Science Nurses to \$30 an hour, added Vision and Dental benefits, increased our retirement match to 6%, and provide subsidized housing and moving assistance. We also provide meals while on duty and many activities to show our ongoing support and love for their ministry.

Clearview Home's principal goal is to provide a sanctuary and an atmosphere conducive to healing through the ministry of Christian Science nursing. Recently, we made a few changes to our mission statement; it now states: To provide a sanctuary for healing by shining the light of Love through Christian Science nursing. Our mission fully supports the bylaw for Christian Science Nurse found in The Manual of The Mother Church: (Article 8, Section 31)

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“Christian Science Nurse. Sect. 31. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.

The cards of such persons may be inserted in The Christian Science Journal under rules established by the publishers.” (Manual p. 49:7–16)

Christian Science healing pours forth light that cannot be hid to bless all mankind. Its mission captures the spirit of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount, “Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.” (Matt 5:15) Clearview has always strived to be a sanctuary of healing for the many individuals we serve.

This sanctuary thought was expressed during our meetings with the City of Delafield. It was heartening to hear the oft-repeated phrase, “we have good neighbors at Clearview Home”. Many residents of Delafield value and support our work, even if they don’t completely understand it. They feel the love we have for our community.

The services we provide, the programs we support, and the activities Clearview Home participates in -- all help to “calm man’s fears,” to lift his burdens, and to encourage those we meet to rely on Truth and Love to bring immunity from sin, sickness, and death.

During our strategic planning over the last two years, we’ve asked several questions:

- How can we continue to value Christian Science nurses?
- How can we support a more structured Christian Science nurse education and training program?
- How can we meet the increasing inquiries for assisted and residential living?

As we have thoughtfully considered how to meet these needs as well as continuing to support our local Christian Science church family-- we decided to review our master building plan. We felt it was important to now focus more on projects that were reasonable and supportive of what we are currently able to demonstrate when thinking about staffing and projects. What came out of our prayerful work was instead of five or six building initiatives we are now focusing on three aspects of the master plan.

1. **A Christian Science Nursing Care Wing addition to the main building including a second generator.**
2. **A separate building for Christian Science nurse education and training program**
3. **Replacement of the maintenance barn and landscaping the property**

Why an addition to the main building? When we built the new building, it was always with the intention of expanding. We specifically designed the main building

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with that in mind. We did not want a big building and that was understaffed or underutilized. Over the last several years our occupancy has been steadily increasing – with 100% occupancy for most of the past year and this year. Admission Inquiries must be balanced with adequate staffing. Currently, we can accommodate up to four Christian Science Nursing Care patients and still provide proper care. Even now we are unable to take in highly skilled care situations – care situations that would need 2 or more Christian Science nurses to provide care. So, as we think about the new Christian Science Nursing Care rooms, we are designing rooms with better access to the bathroom and a lift system in the room to help patients move from one part of the room to another. This new addition will also include a living/dining area for patients, a prep kitchen, and a covered patio. This will allow Christian Science Nursing Care patients greater privacy. The new addition will free up the original six rooms to meet the increasing needs of Assisted and Residential inquiries we've been receiving.

As it becomes possible to grow the next generation of Christian Science nurses Clearview Home has the flexibility to switch all ten rooms to Christian Science Nursing Care as needed. This plan brings so much flexibility in meeting the changing needs of the future.

Why do we need another generator? We have asked ourselves this question for the last several years. Yet each time there has been a prolonged power outage we are reminded that not many of the building's systems are on generator back up. The generator was originally designed for what they call Life Safety. This means that all the emergency systems you need to evacuate the building will receive power. If we need to shelter in a place, which we have a couple of times, – many day-to-day systems were not on the generator. We have adjusted coverage so that the kitchen and several Christian Science Nursing systems receive generator back up. But we would like to be able to shelter in place will all the systems up and running if needed. During the design process for the addition, we have made sure that the second generator will cover the additional rooms.

Another part of the building project supports recent changes in Christian Science Nurses training. In the next several years Christian Science Nursing education is returning to a more structured program. Christian Science Nursing education programs will be offering a classroom setting followed by a mentoring program. This new structure makes it even more important that there be a dedicated area for Christian Science Nursing education. This would be the principal purpose for the new building we want to put on the property. We are calling it *The Gathering Place*. It would accommodate a structured Christian Science Nursing education program with offices and training rooms. And it would also have a large conference area that could accommodate up to 80 or more at a time.

This is one example of how Clearview Home can continue to support Christian Science Nursing into the future. Not only could we have an onsite training program,

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but we could also host rotating or guest instructors to conduct professional development retreats for Journal-listed Christian Science nurses to meet their continuing education requirements. We also have designed the building with the space and technology to host Christian Science Lectures, Christian Science Associations, Bible Study retreats and other events which allows us to give back to our community.

Finally: the other part of the project is the replacement of the Red Barn with a new Maintenance/storage shed, parking to fulfill city requirements, and improving the landscaping. We have a rendering of the landscape plan. It includes several ponds, paved and unpaved walking paths, fruit trees, and increasing the variety of trees and plantings indigenous to Wisconsin. At one time every indigenous tree in Wisconsin was represented on the property and our goal is to restore that. We have included aspects of privacy, wildlife refuge plantings, areas for quiet contemplation and study in a beautifully thought-out plan.

As we move forward our thoughts naturally turn toward funding for the project. The overall construction costs are close to \$6 million, but the different parts of the project can be completed separately over time.

So, what is the future for Clearview Home?

Our plans are to:

- continue to support healing,
- cherishing the Manual bylaw for Christian Science nurse.
- And to meet Christian Science Nursing needs locally and nationally that Clearview Home can sustainably support.

That may happen in a new addition or a new building on the property or it may not. The emphasis is on the opportunity to listen to God's ideas. It's not about the physical structures it is about witnessing God's practical expression of care for each of His ideas.