

ANNUAL GATHERING 2024

Executive Director Report

Welcome to everyone online, in person and those who may be listening to our reports via the replay. What a joy it is to meet with you each year to express gratitude for our Christian Science nurses and to support the healing work here at Clearview Home.

This past year has brought many blessings to our patients, their families, our staff, our volunteers and our board members. Throughout my report I will be sharing moments of gratitude expressed for the care and love each individual feels when they come to Clearview.

The board and I have spent time overcoming impositions related to Christian Science nursing and to Clearview's policies as well. This past couple of years the biggest imposition has been the claim of staff shortages. This claim affects not only Christian Science nursing facilities but also medical facilities nationwide. Instead of emphasizing what we don't have we have spent the last year focusing on what we do have. From II Cor 8:12 "For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath and not according to that he hath not."

Another idea I found in an article ***Be Ye therefore perfect*** from the Christian Science Sentinel of November 28, 2022:

"A conscious acknowledgement of our inherent oneness with God and His qualities aligns our thoughts and efforts with God's flawless creation. . . 'be ye therefore perfect' is an admonition to acknowledge our present reality as created by God". This led to the acknowledgement that all the Christian Science nursing qualities we need are present now at Clearview, because God, good, is ever-present. As Christian Science nurses or other staff members, we can't help reflecting this ever-present Godlikeness.

We started out last fall studying the Sermon on the Mount and as part of our work we put up three large post-It notes on the wall and asked everybody to share the nursing qualities they saw demonstrated inside the building.

Some of the spiritual concepts we observed and acknowledged in our Christian Science nursing department were:

Peace, understanding, gentleness, spiritual intuition, inspired compassion, lovingkindness, encouragement, courage, humility, a desire for healing and understanding, seeking, shining a light of hope, reflecting the light of Love, graciousness to each other, faith in God's turn of events, forgiveness for seeming failure, brotherhood under one Father, reconciliation with each other and with God, purity, honesty, joyfulness, trust in God and one another, freedom from limitation, freedom from fear and spiritual worth . . . to name just a few.

As we continued to cherish that these spiritual intuitions and messages are already present, other insights followed. Often an individual's sense of burden comes from thinking that we are personally responsible for the expression of these insights. Isn't that just like mortal mind to try to deceive us into believing that we are personally responsible for performing or carrying out the nursing/caring activity? Actually, it is always God's overflowing love for His children that flows through us as we become a transparency for it.

What results—is that the spiritually uplifting and healing atmosphere becomes even more evident. This was recently expressed by a friend of a patient.

She shared with me the following: "Today I witnessed the progress our dear friend is experiencing at Clearview. As POA for Healthcare, I am most grateful for every member of the Clearview Team and for the loving care they provide. One senses calm and peace upon entry. The Christian Science nurses extend their gracious manner to every visitor. Patience and supportive aid is witnessed not only with my friend but with all residents. The ever-present light that fills the building reflects the divine Light that heals those who enter. Thank you, Clearview, for supporting each Christian Science demonstration. May the annual event be a blessing to all those in attendance and to your residents. Love to all,"

Even during difficult staffing challenges, the gratitude from patients and their families continues to overflow and the difficulties do not touch them or the care they receive.

As we delved even deeper into the Sermon on the Mount what a joy to discover that the Beatitudes describe uplifting Christian Science nursing activity. For example, Christian Science nurses nourish the “poor in spirit”, comfort “those that mourn”, strengthen the meek through spiritual witnessing, have compassion for the merciful – for those who need mercy because they feel their challenge so keenly, and encourage those who are going through hardship – with spiritual courage. All these actions describe an active Christian Science Nurse and their duties throughout the day.

Here's another expression of gratitude from a family member:

“I was so grateful to have Clearview available for my parent when they needed light care in a Christian Science atmosphere. We were able to relocate them from several states away and received the warmest, gentlest, kindest welcome and care. As they progressed, they were able to stay as an independent resident and enjoy the company of the Christian Science nurses, the cooks, and the activities director. They even joined the local branch church and loved exploring Delafield - just a short walk away. After returning from a trip to visit family they had a sudden need which required highly skilled Christian Science nursing care. I was grateful for the frequent, clear, healing communication of the staff with me, and for their round-the-clock care of my parent - a high demand met with love and grace. It became apparent that it would be wise to move them closer to family, and with the help of the Director of Christian Science Nursing, -- that too was completed with the same warm, gentle, loving care they had received during their entire time at Clearview. I'm so deeply grateful for the loving work that Christian Science nursing provides for our dear loved ones. Thank you!”

What a wonderful example of Christian Science nurses letting their light shine in the care of the patient and the family members.

Another imposition that Christian Science nursing facilities often face are financial challenges. Each year Clearview Home goes through the auditing process. Nancy Parbs, our Office Manager, and I have been through the process together for three years. This year continued to be just as harmonious for us as it is for our auditors. Wegner CPA have been the auditors for Clearview Home for over 10 years and we value our relationship with them. One of the comments from our auditors this year is that they “encountered no difficulties in completing their task”. We have enjoyed seeing our auditors from year to year and getting caught up on how everyone is doing, as well as seeing financial progress unfold. This year we are pleased to report that Clearview Home is in a sound financial position with the qualities of wisdom, economy, and brotherly love at the helm.

At the end of our fiscal year 2023, funds on hand were \$3,906,063. Clearview Home has no indebtedness and our expenditures for the last year totaled \$1,329,361.

Each year Clearview Home receives substantial donations from the field, and we have made a commitment to contribute a portion to our investment fund, which has brought many blessings. The National Fund for Christian Science Nursing continues to bless several patients and Clearview Home also continues to give additional financial aid where needed.

Financial aid comes in many forms. It can be through a payment plan, a reduction of the daily rate for a period of time, or larger benevolence requests.

Benevolence is really the outpouring of God’s love, good will, and spiritual understanding to all His children. Last year we gave out \$185,000 in benevolence care, which makes up about 23% of patient fees for last year.

An individual who received benevolence last year commented that *“coming to Clearview saved my life” and he was so grateful for the atmosphere and skill of the Christian Science nursing staff.* The family of another patient expressed gratitude that their loved one *“would not have been able to weather the life changes had they not been sheltered at Clearview.”* Another patient shared *“I am very grateful for all the benevolence I’ve received and so very grateful for the family atmosphere, the Christian Science Nurse, and everyone!”*

Our auditors also shared that 77% of our expenses support Christian Science nursing, which is our mission and reflects the impact our Christian Science nurses

have on the healing work of Clearview Home. Management and general upkeep expenses were 20% of our budget, and 3% of our expenses went toward fundraising.

The finance committee meets monthly to provide stewardship of the Clearview Home funds. Each meeting starts with reading and sharing about ideas on supply, provision, economy, etc. One of the spiritual concepts we've focused on over the last couple of years is Jesus' multiplication of the 5 loaves and 2 fish to feed the 5000. It has inspired us to also expand our inspiration. Recently the inspiration and progress shared at the finance committee meeting made its way over to the seeming short supply of Christian Science nursing staff. We could readily acknowledge all the progress Clearview has made about spiritual provision. Staffing is no different. Since Truth is universal, we started taking the inspiration from our work on financial supply and applied it to staffing supply. Isn't part of that demonstration acknowledging that supply is already present to meet the need? This really opened thought to the possibility of progress despite the human situation. Just as individuals coming to terms with Gods law of supply and its applicability to individual lives, Clearview Home as an entity must also demonstrate supply independent of the human picture.

Last fall Clearview Home had the privilege of hosting a conference of the Organization of Residential Homes for Christian Scientists. We had attendees from the east coast, the midwest, and the west coast. They came together to discuss healing, caring for each other, and responsible stewardship. Brad Stock gave a wonderful talk on how the concept of caring for each other has evolved and what it means to be a child of God's care. Chestnut Booth gave a wonderful talk on Retroactive Healing and walked us through different strategies to help heal past hurts and traumas. The attendees enjoyed a ride on the East Troy Electric Railroad and Clearview hosted Wednesday evening dinner with everyone attending the Wednesday evening testimony meeting at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Brookfield.

At the end of May, Clearview Home welcomed the Accreditation Review Team from The Commission. They inspected the building, spoke to patients and staff, reviewed our documents, emergency plans, quality improvement program and interviewed Management staff. The Review Team shared the following with us:

“A Christian Scientist occupies the place at this period of which Jesus spoke to his disciples, when he said: ‘Ye are the salt of the earth.’ ‘Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.’ (S&H 367:17-21) Clearview is the salt and the light and cannot be hid. It has vitality, hope, and love and is deserving of growth and progress. It was a joy for me to meet the staff and speak with the patients. The family feeling and expectancy of healing and growth are ‘woven into one web of consistency without seam or rent,’ to borrow Mrs. Eddy’s words. (S&H 242) The DCSN and the Christian Science nurses deserve the highest praise for their dedication, endurance, and hard work during this time of staffing challenges. The 12-hour shifts are a creative solution, and although it has been difficult on the staff, it is meeting the need. The Christian Science nurses are actively praying, and have hope for the future. Jeffrey was praised by the patients and staff for his willingness to serve, alertness, consistency, and kindness. The Activities Coordinator: Carol Johnson creates a ‘spiritual activity’ calendar each month, which includes the Bible Lesson study, remote church services, programs, and other Christian Science events. A variety of other activities, baking, reading, walks and wheelchair rides, holiday inspired projects, some provided by volunteers, are tailored to each individual. The patients appreciate Carol’s thoughtfulness, friendliness, and love she brings to her role.

The patients interviewed said they consistently receive high quality Christian Science nursing care. They are grateful and even surprised by the tenderness and understanding expressed by the Christian Science nurses. They are touched by the metaphysical sharing when they are challenged, and the quiet support they feel at all other times. Both patients said the Christian Science nurses respond with calm confidence and efficiency when faced with tornado watches/warnings and other unexpected circumstances. The patients praised the quality and variety of the food and enjoy the camaraderie with the kitchen staff. They both said they feel supported in their study and practice of Christian Science. It was interesting to me that the patients never mentioned the CSNs were busy— they are shielded from the staffing challenges. I am impressed with the spiritual poise of the staff.”

We had no required actions and just received word on Friday that the Commission approved another three-year unconditional accreditation!

Congratulations to the whole staff on all the preparation work they did!

What else do we have coming up?

In the past Clearview Home has had a tradition of hosting a Thanksgiving meeting and meal the week before Thanksgiving. This was all interrupted during the pandemic and last year just got away from us. This year we will again return to hosting our annual Thanksgiving Dinner a week before thanksgiving – so mark your calendars for November 21, 2024, and we hope to see everyone there.

Many may be wondering if Clearview Home is going to continue with building plans?

We are happy to say that we have received approval from the city for additional building. You may remember that we were looking at enhancing the grounds, an addition to the main building, more parking and storage barn, and a possible small conference venue. In addition to approval from the city, we have purchased the construction documents. The first part of building is to do site preparation, this would include a silt fence, grading to accommodate additional retention ponds and putting together a staging area for construction trailers etc. This beginning phase cost is around \$350,000. Clearview paid just over \$250,000 for design expenses, city design charges, and the construction documents to date.

As we look back on the past year, we have so much to be grateful for: challenges overcome, impositions reversed, and continued progress. I would like to end with a few more expressions of gratitude from patients and staff:

From a former Patient:

“I am very happy to be back at home and things are going well. Thank you again for all that you have done for me! It was a privilege for me to have had the opportunity to stay there under the loving and protective wing of your wonderful facility and staff.”

From another former patient a list of things they were grateful for at Clearview Home:

- Denise Johnson, her staff and all the good food
- Being an independent resident

- Wednesday popcorn
- Walking to town
- Director of Christian Science Nursing and his Christian Science nursing staff
- Activity Director, Carol Johnson
- Beautiful building
- Outside furniture - to enjoy on a beautiful day
- Financial assistance for skilled care

Testimony of healing from a staff member:

“While working I had a healing from a fall on black ice during the winter. As a Christian Science Nurse, we are constantly doing preventive prayerful work for ourselves, the patients, and the facility we are working for at the time. However, I was caught off guard when I stepped outside in the darkness of the early morning and fell on the pavement hitting the back of my head. When I regained consciousness, my first thoughts were there are no accidents in God's kingdom. I also felt the immediacy of needing to handle this experience. Fortunately, a Christian Science Nurse arrived shortly after my fall and helped me inside the building to a comfortable chair where I called a Christian Science practitioner for prayerful support. Her message to me was the same I expressed and that whatever the human picture seemed to be was a lie about God's man. After resting for a short time and taking some nourishment, I drove ninety minutes to my home with complete alertness. I was very grateful for the loving support from the Christian Science Nurse who assisted me into the building and for the Christian Science Practitioner who supported my quick healing. I have felt complete and perfect since. The outstanding lesson I have learned is that time does not have to play a role in our recovery and/or complete healing.”

From a recent patient: “I have loved this place and they have become as family, from the Christian Science nurses to the cooking staff to the administrative staff – really wonderful. I have enjoyed my contact with the other patients which has brought a lot of joy into my life.” Shared with us as she left the building giving each staff member a rose!

What a privilege it is to be at Clearview as a staff member or a patient, as a vender or a visitor – we all are blessed. Thank you so much for attending our meeting

today. If you have any questions or would like to see our financial statements – please call the office and we'll take good care of you.

Thanks everyone, we will take a 15-minute intermission while we set up for our inspirational talk.

Return from Intermission:

Welcome back everyone here in person and on Zoom.

Unfortunately, Marilyn was not able to be here today due to complications with travel on the ferry across Lake Michigan. We were also unable to connect her with Zoom for today, however she has shared her talk with us and asked Barb Zaroni, another Clearview Home Board member, if she would step in and read her talk. We are very grateful that Marilyn prepared the talk quite a while ago and that we can hear from her today!

Thank you, Barb, for stepping in for Marilyn.