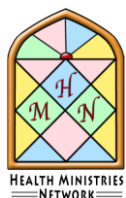


“Improving the health
of our community through
faith based nurses
and health ministers”

2016

ANNUAL REPORT

HEALTH MINISTRIES NETWORK



PeaceHealth
St. Joseph Medical Center

Supported by:

PH SJMC Spiritual Care Department

PH SJMC Foundation

Chuckanut Health Foundation, Jean Billings Tischler Fund

Who We Are



What is a Faith Community Nurse?

Faith community nursing (also known as parish nursing) is a practice specialty that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit, promotion of an integrative model of health, prevention and minimization of illness within the context of a faith community.

Faith community nursing began in the mid-1980s in Chicago through the efforts of Rev. Dr. Granger Westberg as a reincarnation of the faith community nursing outreach done by religious orders in Europe and America in the 1800s. Faith community nursing is rooted in the Judeo-Christian tradition, and the historic practice of professional nursing, and is consistent with the basic assumptions of many faiths that we care for self and others as an expression of God's love. It is not only available to Christian congregations. There are Jewish Congregational Nurses, Muslim Crescent Nurses, and RNs serving in similar capacities within other faith traditions.

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What is a Health Minister?

A Health Minister is a person who shows the love of God through the promotion of health, healing and wholeness within a congregation/community. Flowing from the mission and vision of the congregation, to promote health and wellness, prevent disease, and facilitate healing for individuals and groups.

A Health Minister may work with a Faith Community Nurse (FCN) when available, but does not specifically need an FCN to carry out this work. S/he does not need to have a professional health or ministry background...just a heart to serve in this way.

What We Do

Provide training for Faith Community Nurses and Health Ministers each in their own discipline related

to the Scope and Standards of Practice for Nursing, integrating faith and health with the intentional care of the spirit to assist at health fairs, blood pressure and CPR clinics, and other health screening clinics or events.

Conduct monthly meetings, seminars and annual retreats as part of an ongoing free training and development of the health ministry and faith community practice open to all aligned with our program. Ongoing orientation to the program, in-service training, and continuing education for all persons associated with our network.

Present a hybrid FCN/HM fundamentals course at least once a year. A combination of in-person and on-line training for an eight week Foundations of Faith Community Nursing and Health Ministry course.



Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Course, 2015

Second from left: Jeanne Brotherton, RN, FCN, MEd

Far right: 2017 HMN Interim Coordinator, Rev. Tessie Mandeville

Recognize and collaborate with faith communities who support wholeness and wellness programs.

What we do, cont.

Partner with like-minded health care organizations and community based nonprofits who seek to incorporate intentional care of the spirit to their ongoing care management or care transition or navigation process.

Mentor, consult and support FCNs and HMs to create, sustain and evaluate health related ministry programs.

Advocate for personal health counseling and referral to appropriate sources using the nursing process and diagnosis which aids in saved dollars and early response to health concerns.

Track outcomes for end of the year reports and sharing with our funders and supporters. Data collection, evaluation, and retrieval for our HMN/FCN program as it relates to all gathered data as part of Best Practices.

Train volunteers for the work of health and wellness in faith communities. Support groups can then be led by volunteers or professionals in grief and loss, domestic violence, healthy living, mental illness, and end of life care with oversight of the FCN or HMN.

HMN Annual Retreat 2014



The Lives We Impact

Advocating for Mental Health Support

One FCN stopped a premature discharge of a mentally ill congregant from a facility by using Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) related to her complex situation. The congregant had no home to be discharged to and was to be put in a taxi or bus back to Bellingham. The facility kept her for an additional two months until services and a residence was found to support her mental health and healing.

Supporting a Young Family

One FCN and her congregation in Lynden helped a young mother with two children under the age of 10 who were living in Section 8 housing that was unfit for them and literally making them sick with toxic mold. This FCN helped the family move to a clean temporary apartment provided by New Ways Ministries Next Steps and working with this ministry gave her safe and clean housing, case management, and social services. She and her children have also received necessary health care and support and are in the process of finding a permanent home.



Collaboration Within and Beyond the Walls of the Congregation

One of our FCNs in Oak Harbor is not only serving his local congregation with his referral, advocacy, and educational programs, he is also serving as the contact person for his denomination's national health ministries group. In addition to this he is helping a 900 member congregation in Seattle to establish their own health ministry program.

Foot Care Leads to Better Quality of Life

A group of FCNs and HMs in Bellingham work together to help congregants address and plan for end-of-life care that is alignment with their spiritual values. In addition to this and so many other programs, they have also incorporated a "foot care" ministry into their home visits as part of their overall caregiving. This enables their congregants to have a better quality of life, to be independent, and to stay healthy through physical activity.

The lives we impact, cont.

Tending to the Body and Spirit of the Elderly

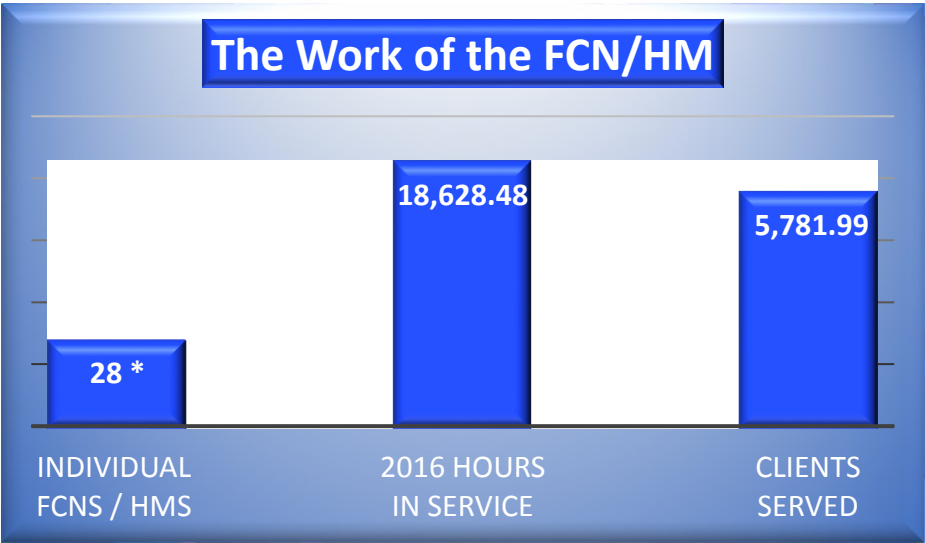
One FCN worked with an elderly woman approaching her 90's. This woman was a cancer survivor who had been healthy until the last eight months when she developed pain in her leg. This FCN accompanied the congregant to physician visits and X-ray appointments, helped get her prescriptions filled, and in doing this tended to the congregant's spirit that was weighed down by loneliness. As time progressed this congregant needed a wheelchair and assistance in the home. The FCN worked with the family to hire a caregiver in the home to help fix meals, do light cleaning, and keep company with her. The FCN also connected this congregant to Visiting Nurses so an additional nurse was checking in on her two-three times per week. Over time it was evident that this congregant needed assisted living, and she was open to receiving it. Eventually she relocated to an assisted living facility where she is happy, properly being taken care of and her loneliness is improved with many new friends.



Helping Congregants Maintain Independence and Community Connections

A group of FCNs and HMs in Bellingham have two church members who live alone and have few family members nearby. From their parish nurse fund, they pay for Life Alert devices for each of them each month. This allows them to live in their own home and be safe and still participate in church and other activities.

Hours of Service and Value to Our Communities



* Number of annual surveys submitted for 2016



* Based on \$35 per hour in service

Vision of Health Ministries Network, Inc.

To train, prepare, and link faith community nurses and health ministers in an interfaith partnership for service to their faith communities and the wider community of health systems delivering whole person health and wellness programs that focus on the mind, body, and spirit.

Statement of Professional Practice

As a specialty practice of health ministry, faith community nursing embraces the concepts of spiritual formation, professionalism, shalom as health and wholeness, and community incorporation of cultural and religious diversity.



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