



ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF NURSING
ANNUAL REPORT 2022

DEAR ALUMNI & FRIENDS,

For some time now, we have been hearing, on both the local and national news, that there's a shortage of nurses in New Hampshire and across the United States. Yet here at St. Joseph School of Nursing, I am surrounded by amazing teachers and students who are dedicating their lives to the field of nursing and to serving their community.

The importance of the School of Nursing, especially in these times, is undeniable. It is our role to educate and prepare students to enter the nursing profession, excel and succeed. You may have heard this from me before, but it is worth repeating that no one reaches their goals alone. It takes a dedicated group of staff, faculty, alumni, friends, family and donors to fully support our students.

This report is full of stories on how we're doing just that. We couldn't do what we do without your support. Thank you for your ongoing generosity. I hope you'll email sjn-son_info@sjnh.org to submit a class note, sign up for the alumni council or learn more about how philanthropic efforts are making a difference for our students.



With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Vickie Fieler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Vickie Fieler, PhD, RN

“Every nurse was drawn to nursing because of a desire to care, to serve or to help.”

– Christiana Fiest-Heilmeyer, RN



Graduates Juliya Newcomb, Katherine Lavoie and Dave Vazquez with Yolaine Beaulieu, LNA nursing instructor and Eileen Duggan, associate dean

FUTURE HEALTHCARE LEADERS

New Nursing Assistant Training Program

The School of Nursing continues to grow our programs to support our students and address the ever-present need for healthcare professionals. Nursing assistants are important to the healthcare landscape, as they provide direct care to patients under the supervision of a professional nurse.

The training program begins with students in the classroom setting for 54 hours learning basic nursing theory, which is then practiced in concurrent lab sessions. Students also complete 72 hours of clinical practice at St. Joseph Hospital. After successful completion of the course, trainees are eligible to take the NH nursing assistant state examination.

In 2022, its first year, 13 students completed the new Nursing Assistant Training program. This program qualifies for up to \$6,500 in tuition assistance from the New Hampshire Workforce Innovation & Opportunity Act for students who are receiving public assistance, are low income, are a military veteran or are the spouse of a veteran. We welcome all who wish to learn and grow with us. Spread the word!

We are also pleased to announce that all three of our training programs – nursing assistant, medical assistant and phlebotomy – have been approved by the Accreditation Commission for Career Schools and Colleges. A total of 27 students have completed the training programs this year.



Graduates Angela Burke, Luz Deleon and Page Hampshire



Graduates Kissila De Oliveira and Juan Heredia Ferreras

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT – KAILYND BIGGAR, RN

When I was young and someone asked me, “What do you want to be when you grow up?” I didn’t think twice before, I enthusiastically yelled, “A nurse!” Even today, I cannot picture myself doing anything else.

The Early Years

In 2017, I worked at St. Joseph Hospital as a Licensed Nursing Assistant, or LNA, while I was working toward my Associate of Science in Nursing, or ASN, degree at St. Joseph School of Nursing. I immediately fell in love with the hospital’s atmosphere, employees and patients. I thought, “This is what I was meant to do!”

As soon as I completed my ASN, I accepted a position at the hospital. I was a part of the Nurse Residency program, which helped me gain an even better understanding of bedside nursing.

Being a nurse is much more than just a job; it’s a calling. It’s about instilling hope in patients who may have lost it and treating all patients and colleagues with respect, kindness and compassion. For me, nursing is a passion to serve others and provide the absolute best care possible.

A Devastating Loss

During my first semester of nursing school, I unexpectedly lost my brother, who was just 18 years old. I struggled with grief and was unsure if I could manage school while enduring this devastating loss. I vividly remember my fellow nursing students and nursing professors supporting me. They were so compassionate. They wanted to see me succeed, which helped me push forward and never give up. With their encouragement, and the strength God gave me, I continued with my nursing education. I also clearly remember being reminded by those close to me that I was now living my life for two people – myself and my younger brother.

One year after my brother’s passing, my family and I created Bubba’s Home Foundation. The foundation’s mission, in memory of my brother, is to support people with substance use disorder and help them get into sober living homes. When graduation rolled around, my class was asked to select a charitable organization to donate to. St. Joseph Hospital’s chief nursing officer, along with my classmates, presented me and my family with a generous contribution to Bubba’s Home Foundation. I recall thinking, “This is what nursing is all about – being selfless and extending a helping and healing hand to people in need.”

“This is what I was meant to do!”

– Kailynd Biggar, RN



“I would not change my journey for anything in the world.”

– Kailynd Biggar, RN

A Passion To Help Others

Being a nurse at St. Joseph Hospital allows me to practice my passion and help others. I would not change my journey for anything in the world. The hospital’s mission and core values of compassion, integrity, collaboration and excellence have guided our team to provide outstanding care to the communities we service with unwavering love.

Fast-forward to 2023 – I am the clinical resource nurse for 3 South, a medical surgical/neurological unit and Avasure Hub. I’m also a full-time student at Southern New Hampshire University working toward my master’s in executive nurse leadership. I expect to graduate in early 2024.

If there is one thing that I could tell high school students about being a registered nurse, it would be that even on the hardest of days it’s a job you will forever love. There are days when you will inspire patients, but even more days when your patients will inspire you. Donna Wilk Cardillo, an RN and author, said, “When I think about all the patients and their loved ones I have worked with over the years, I know most of them don’t remember me, nor I them. But I know that I gave a little piece of myself to each of them, and they to me, and those threads make up the tapestry in my mind that is my nursing career.”



MOBILIZING OUR COMMUNITY TO ADDRESS THE NURSING SHORTAGE

In 2022, the New Hampshire Community College System shared a research paper titled Nursing Education in New Hampshire with Abigail Seldin from the Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation. Their hope was that this paper would provide information to help create solutions to address the country's nursing shortage.

Donalee Lozeau, CEO of Southern New Hampshire Services and a member of St. Joseph Hospital board of directors, former St. Joseph Hospital Vice President Andrea Erickson and St. Joseph Hospital School of Nursing Dean Vickie Fieler convened a meeting of 16 of their peers to take on this challenge. They formed a one-year task force, called the Southern New Hampshire Nurse Leader and Nurse Educators Pilot Project. Members of this pilot project include representatives from Parkland Medical Center, Catholic Medical Center, Elliot Hospital, Concord Hospital, Southern NH Medical Center, Rivier University, UNH, Nashua Community College, St. Anselm College, Manchester Community College and Great Bay Community College.

The group identified, among the many reasons for the nursing shortage, that there is a severe shortage of faculty and instructors to teach nursing courses, which limits the number of students who may pursue a nursing education. Additionally,

due to the shortages in all areas of the healthcare workforce, there are also limited clinical settings for nursing students.

The group will make recommendations to help alleviate the nursing shortage. One proposal that has been accepted is to pilot a three-year program that allows instructors with a bachelor's degree, in addition to those with a master's degree, to teach students in clinical settings. A second proposal has been submitted to the New Hampshire Board of Nursing asking to change the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLX, pass rate requirements for nursing programs to 80% for first-time test takers. This would allow New Hampshire nursing schools to accept more students from diverse backgrounds without risking its board approval.

The long-term goal of this group is to create collaborative partnerships that strengthen the nursing system statewide. Due to their success, this group will carry on their work for an additional year. The ongoing financial support for this work is generously provided by Seldin/Haring-Smith Foundation, through their Community Services Block Grant.

OUR PEOPLE, OUR MISSION



Karen Kulakov Retires

Congratulations to Karen Kulakov, MS, RN, CNE, who retired after 11 years of service as an instructor. Ms. Kulakov worked at SJSON as an instructor from 2010 to 2022. Ms. Kulakov graduated with her BS in nursing from UNH in 1991 and with her MS in nursing from Rivier University in 2005. “Ms. Kulakov was a great instructor who really cared about her students,” says Dean Vickie Fieler. “She was patient and kind. She particularly enjoyed supporting students in clinical settings.”



Erin Ricker, MSN, RN, CEN, CPEN, TCRN, and St. Joseph Hospital’s June 2022 Mission Champion

Erin, an instructor at the School of Nursing, is an inspiration to her nursing students. She often says, “I am not teaching you to pass the test, I’m teaching you to do the best for your patients.” She leads and teaches by example in her clinical rotation with students – always putting the patients’ needs first. Christina Ducharme, fellow instructor at the St. Joseph School of Nursing, says, “Erin sets high standards for students, as she has significantly increased the National Council Licensure Examination, or NCLX, pass rate and inspires her students to improve caring standards. She is always honest with her students and herself. Erin has strong moral principles and is always teaching the right way of care.”



Rita Anger, RN, “Kindness Is Contagious” Winner

Nominated by a community member, Rita received June “Kindness Is Contagious” recognition from St. Joseph Hospital. “She is a smart and kind lady. She is very valuable to the hospital and School of Nursing,” said her nominator. Rita started working at St. Joseph Hospital as a candy striper at age 14 and after leaving healthcare for several years, returned in 1994 as an LNA. She began nursing school at age 49 and has been working for the School of Nursing since 2006. “Working at the school has been the most rewarding calling of my life. Students inspire me, as do members of our faculty and staff. I am so very thankful for being a part of the St. Joseph Hospital family.”

CLASS NOTES



Jenny Martin's daughter, Olivia, was born October 3, 2022; she's 5 months now. Her favorite hobby is studying and writing papers with her mom. Jenny is graduating in April 2024. Congratulations, Jenny!

Katheryn Burk was the valedictorian of the August 20, 2022, class. Katheryn got married after graduating and is now enrolled in a psychiatric nurse practitioner program working toward her master's degree. Congratulations, Katheryn!

Submit a Class Note

Did you get married, have a baby, change jobs, earn an award or further your education? We'd love to hear about it and share it with your classmates. Please send your class notes to SJN-SON_info@sjnh.org.



Phlebotomy graduates Rochelle Foglietta, Elizabeth Salisbury, Nancy Pillot, Jacqueline Peabody and Jennifer Arias

Rochelle Foglietta graduated from our Phlebotomy Training Program on July 8, 2022. She thinks the St. Joseph School of Nursing is amazing and would recommend it to her family and friends.

Lauren Frament graduated on August 20, 2022. She is now working as an RN in the main operating room at Rhode Island Hospital. Lauren also got engaged in February 2023. Congratulations, Lauren!

Karisa Anderson graduated from our inaugural Medical Assisting Program on April 15, 2022. She is happy to share she is expecting her first baby in April 2023 – a baby girl. Congratulations, Karisa!

SUPPORTING OUR STUDENTS

FACTS Scholarship – Helping With Workforce Shortage

FACTS, a school management software company, has renewed its commitment to support our nursing students with a scholarship. By doing so, they hope to help address the healthcare workforce shortage in New Hampshire.

Esther Martin Scholarship

The Esther Martin Scholarship was established by Portage Learning, an online learning platform. The scholarship program was established in memory of Esther Elliott Martin (1948-1995) as a tribute to her lifelong commitment to education. Each year since 2007, Portage Learning awards several \$2,000 scholarships to partner schools across the country to help qualified students defray the cost of tuition and fees.

Partner schools are selected based on a similar commitment to nontraditional students and applicants. One of the 2022 scholarships was awarded to the St. Joseph School of Nursing. In turn, the school awarded the \$2,000 scholarship to Kay Singh, who says, “Since receiving this scholarship, I have reduced my work hours from 36 to 24 per week. I also now work days instead of nights. I can spend more time focusing on my education.”

New Digital Financial Aid Portal

The new digital financial aid portal allows our students to access financial aid, review materials and accept financial aid online. This new portal was made possible thanks to CARES Act funding.

NEW TUITION DEFERMENT PROGRAM AT ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL

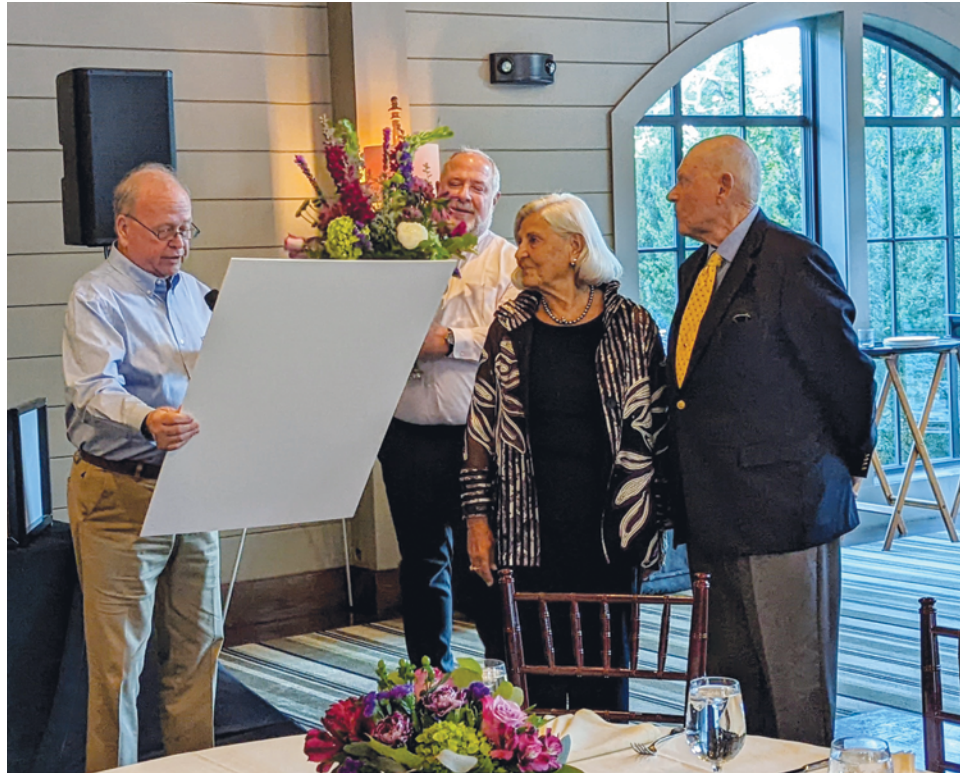
St. Joseph Hospital now offers the employee benefit of tuition deferment for all School of Nursing programs. Employees must be in good standing in their position at the hospital. Employees can apply for the ASN nursing program or one of the training programs at the school: medical assisting, nursing assisting or phlebotomy. If accepted as a student, the employee is required to sign an agreement with the hospital to work for three years after completion of the ASN degree, or for one year after completion of their elected training program. Tuition deferment does not cover expenses such as books, uniforms, shoes, etc. The value of the ASN degree is approximately \$30,000 and the value of the training programs is between \$1,200 and \$5,000. This taxable benefit is a great opportunity for employees to grow their career without taking on student loans.

HONORING VOLUNTEERS

Arel Scholarship Established

St. Joseph Hospital president John Jurczyk established the Arel Scholarship in honor of longtime board member Maurice Arel and his wife, Joyce, for their 40 years of volunteer service.

“In their tradition of supporting higher education, it was an obvious choice to recognize Maurice ‘Moe’ and Joyce Arel for their decades of service to the St. Joseph Hospital and Covenant Health organizations with this scholarship. They are wonderful, contributing community partners whose leadership and guidance over the years has helped build a strong ministry,” said John Jurczyk.



“Now I can spend more time focusing on my education.”

– Kaye Singh, scholarship recipient



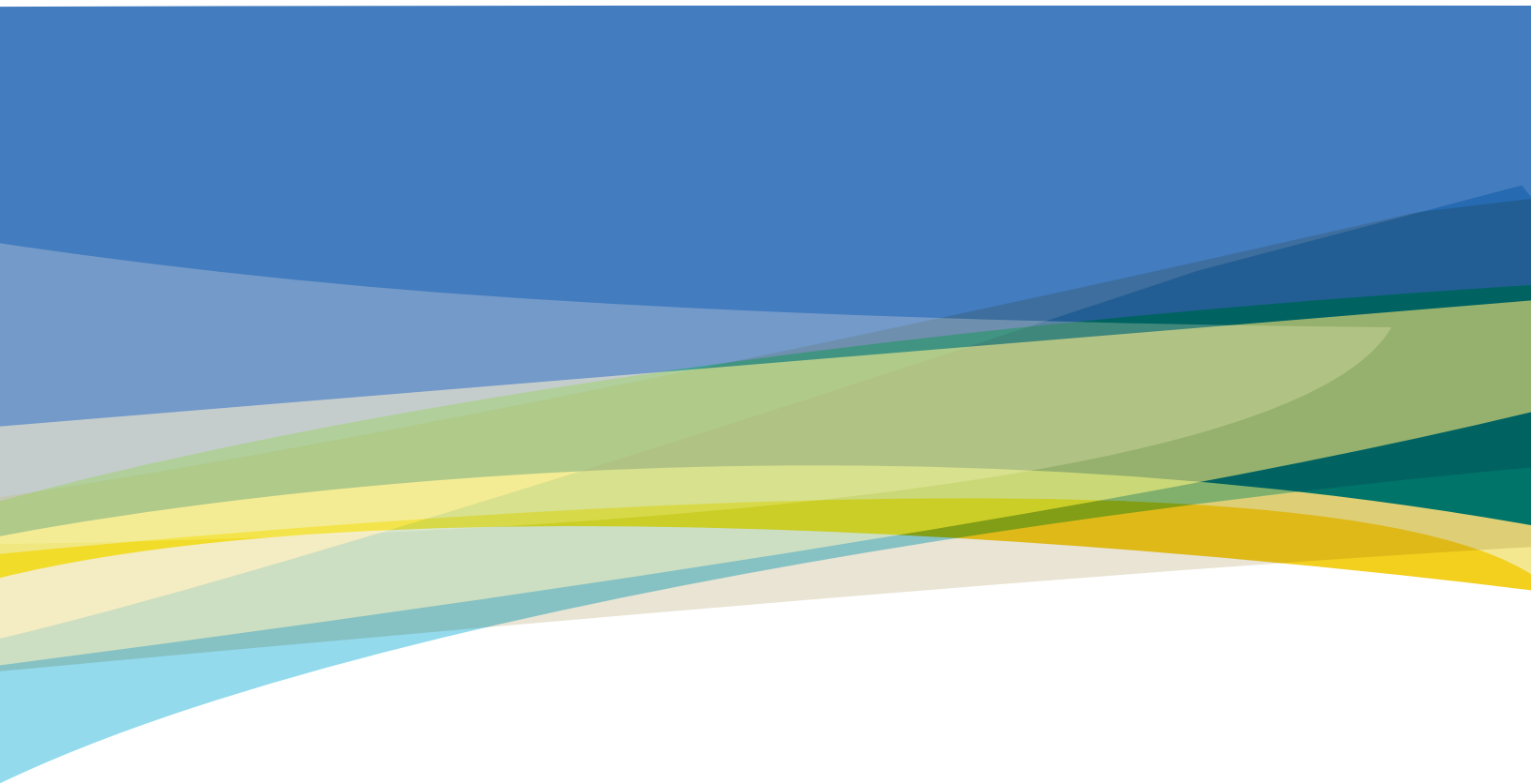
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