



# HOUSTON VISITING CHRISTIAN SCIENCE NURSE SERVICE, INC.

Our mission is to heal through practical, operative Christian Science.

October 2023

## Love and gratitude

Love and gratitude are indispensable and interdependent qualities. It is not possible to have one without the other. Feeling gratitude without the spirit of unselfed love is like a ship sitting on the sand dunes of the Sahara—too immobile to be of any earthly use. Just as the same ship moves freely once placed in deep water, so is our gratitude made practical when it's surrounded and sustained by an ocean of Love—the Love that is God. You could say: It is Love alone that "floats our boat"!

Love with a capital "L" heals. Our gratitude to God is simply our expectancy of divine Love's healing effects. We members of the Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service board believe that this organization exists to support Love's healing works and that it is natural to feel great gratitude for its mission.



For the past five years we have gratefully and lovingly employed *Journal*-listed Susie Petersen as the Houston-area visiting Christian Science nurse. Every day we see how she supports spiritual healing through her consecrated work, her divinely compassionate character, and her sweet, joyful attitude.

Those of you who have met Susie undoubtedly agree that she radiates grace. Her clients express gratitude for her gentle touch and practical care. Her work also blesses clients' sometimes-skeptical family members. When she lets the light of Love shine into the sickroom and cut through clouds of doubt and fear, this light warms the hearts of those who are supporting the spiritual conviction of their loved one—even if they themselves are not Christian Scientists.

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Occasionally Susie has been called to the side of patients (whom we call “clients”) in the hospital. There, she has an opportunity to share with curious medical professionals how a Christian Science nurse depends upon God, the great Physician, in everything she (or he) does. The nurses and doctors see that Christian Science takes seriously such Bible verses as “. . . **thou** reignest over all; and in **thine** hand is power and might; and in **thine** hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all” (I Chronicles 29:12). [The **bold** we added emphasizes that God is the one and only healer.]

At these times, Susie’s respectful conversations with medical practitioners result in their clearer views and grateful acknowledgment of Christian Science healing—and of its practitioners. Such hospital visits are rare. But in each instance, Susie simply follows the behest of Love—supporting her client’s expressed wish while not compromising her ethical oath to her Christian Science nurse training and listing.

The January 2021 “[Good News](#)” article, “What to Expect from a Christian Science Nurse” can be found on our website.

Other “Good News” issues have featured written testimonies of gratitude from either clients or family members. One such example is in the December 2020 newsletter. These written testimonies of healing and of gratitude to and love for Susie are precious to us. But we equally appreciate the little signs of Love reflected in love—the heartfelt thank you or beaming smile or hand-squeeze—that her clients daily convey to Susie.

As our visiting Christian Science nurse, Susie makes herself available 24/7. She has been known to graciously spend Christmas Day and other holidays away from her family to aid a dear client in need. Of course, we board members never know the names or specific details of her clients. Confidentiality is one of the most sacred duties of a Christian Science nurse.

We are cognizant not only of Susie’s willingness to be ever-ready to serve her fellow Christian Scientists but also of her many years of dedication to this work.

Her consecration leads us to make this statement: All practicing students of Christian Science—yes, you and you and you and I—are likewise being called upon to serve and support our fellow members with the same compassion and stick-to-itiveness that Susie possesses. This demand holds true no matter how long our church brethren seem to be enduring a challenge.

Perhaps John C. Lathrop realized the importance of sticking by our brothers and sisters in Christ when his teacher, Mary Baker Eddy, reminded all the members of her Pleasant View household:

Never become discouraged, dear ones. This work is not hum drum, it is growth. It is repeating and defeating, repeating and defeating, repeating and defeating. Is this not the way a mathematician becomes a mathematician? (See *We Knew Mary Baker Eddy, First Series*, pages 14–15.)

This October 2023 issue of “Good News” is intended to dispel any mental imposition that would interfere with your natural right as a Christian Scientist to ask for and receive the loving help of your *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse.

Your reward for doing so? “Both riches and honour come of thee,” promises the first part of the above I Chronicles quote.

Remember, Love and gratitude join hands to *heal* us. They float our boat.

Lovingly,  
Board of Directors



## Financial Assistance Available

Any Christian Scientist relying upon the services of a Christian Science practitioner and/or a *Journal*-listed Christian Science nurse may obtain financial support by applying to the [National Fund for Christian Science Nursing](#) (NFCSN). You may contact The Principle Foundation, which manages this fund, by emailing [info@nfcsn.org](mailto:info@nfcsn.org) or by calling (800) 873-2843.

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Members of Houston-area branch churches not currently represented on our board are *welcome* to join us.

## Make a Donation

*Our office is your home – providing care in the comfort of your residence.*

Thank you for your support.

Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc. is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductible.

Our service is grateful for the financial support from area Christian Science churches and individuals. Their contributions help us pay for our contracted staff and operating expenses.

**BANKING CONTRIBUTIONS:** To set up recurring donations to be deducted electronically from your checking account, please call our service at (713) 304-8384 and leave your name and contact number. Our treasurer will return your call and will be happy to assist you or answer questions.

**CONTRIBUTIONS BY MAIL:** We welcome checks mailed to us at:  
Houston Visiting Christian Science Nurse Service, Inc.  
815 Valley Ranch Drive, Katy, TX 77450

Make a  
Donation

“Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee”  
*Christian Science Hymn 324*