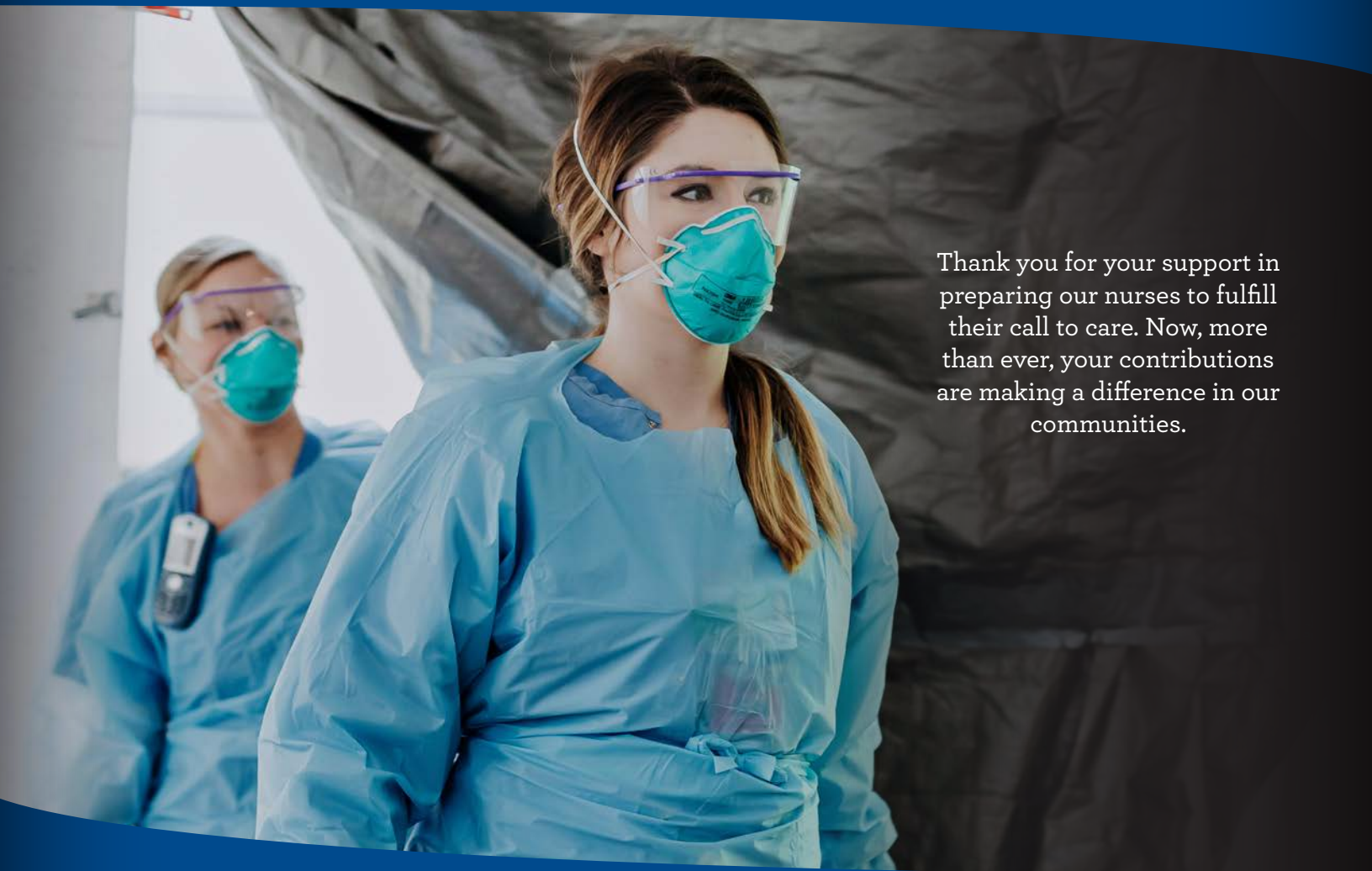


St. John's College of Nursing
IMPACT REPORT

Spring 2020



Thank you for your support in preparing our nurses to fulfill their call to care. Now, more than ever, your contributions are making a difference in our communities.

2020
is the year of the *nurse!*



HSHS
St. John's
Foundation

Letter from the *chancellor*



Charlene Aaron, PhD, RN
Chancellor, St. John's College

Dear friends,

We hope you enjoy this donor impact report. The impact of contributions pooled together is powerful, and all of our nursing students benefit from the generosity of our donors.

2020 is the year of the nurse and we are so proud to play a part in educating the nurses of tomorrow. In this issue you will be introduced to Kris Paiboonsriwattana and read his story as to why he chose St. John's College of Nursing.

Whether your contribution has gone to support student scholarships, our state-of-the-art simulation center or to send faculty to professional development workshops to enhance the learning environment, be assured your contributions are used impactfully.

Thank you for directing your gifts to St. John's College of Nursing to benefit our future nurses!

Meet scholarship recipient *Kris*



"During the tenth grade, my family and I migrated to the United States of America from Thailand. Only my sister and I spoke English, however, neither of us were fluent at that time since we mostly spoke Thai with my family. During my years at the American high school, I improved my English skills, and learned how to adapt myself to a different culture.

One day, my mother fell on the ground because her knee was injured from working long hours. She was crying because of her pain, so I took her to see the doctor. Though this was a difficult experience for our family, one thing that made it better was the care and genuine compassion that the nurse provided. I watched the nurse as she asked what my mom's pain level was in a gentle voice, carefully measured her blood pressure, and noted her symptoms to share with the doctor. I have always been interested in healthcare, and this experience inspired me to pursue nursing.

I recently moved to Illinois, and I did not know anyone in this state to help and support me. That has changed.

A colleague of mine who graduated from St. John's College of Nursing (he is currently working as a RN in California) told me about all the school has to offer. He spoke very highly of the friendly, knowledgeable professors along with the safe environment. The small classroom environment facilitates learning. All students can easily reach out to the professor with questions, which is something I prefer over being in a big lecture hall with hundreds of students. This scholarship has fulfilled my lifelong dream of going to nursing school."

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Simulation center *apartment* coming soon!



A new learning tool for nursing students will be coming soon to the Simulation Center. Plans are in development to create an apartment for the purpose of nursing students to conduct home health assessments on patients posing as older adults. This apartment will allow students to experience a different type of nursing opportunity upon graduation other than acute care.

The apartment will be furnished to resemble a normal apartment and will also include dimensions to make some hazards in the home, for the students to complete environmental assessments as well as health assessments. The initial cost of the apartment was \$6,000 however we anticipate ongoing costs and needs. *Please contact Bev.Neilser@hshs.org if you are interested in supporting the apartment.*

Upon completion of construction, a “Welcome to our Home” event will be held for donors to tour the simulation center.

Donors who make a *difference*



“My mother, Josephine Stoiber Houston, class of 1931, was from Sheboygan, Wisconsin and grew up a block from the original HSHS St. Nicholas Hospital. Two sisters from the Hospital Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis brought my mother to Springfield by train to attend the School of Nursing. It was a life changing event for her, and the Sisters and School of Nursing had a major impact on her life. One of the things my mother taught me from an early age was how special the Sisters and St. John’s Hospital were. My mother was friends with Sisters who taught her, worked with her, and were classmates with her for the rest of her life. I watched my mother work as a nurse, and I learned it takes a very special person to be one. Not only must that person be professionally trained, but must also be compassionate, caring, and empathetic. The St. John’s College of Nursing continues to produce these types of nurses year after year. Carolyn and I could think of no better way to honor my mother than to establish an endowed scholarship in her name to ensure that we continue to have nurses who provide the highest quality of healthcare to serve our community and area.”

— *Mike Houston, former Mayor of Springfield, IL*

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Sister Mary Paul Watts, OLC *Endowment* Scholarship

This scholarship endowment celebrates the St. John's College Class of 1954 and is given in honor of a fellow classmate, Sister Mary Paul, OLC, nee Gloria Watts.

In 1957, Gloria Watts boarded a Chinese freighter and embarked on a lifelong journey that took her from Illinois to the island of Taiwan. A native to Decatur, she was raised in the Methodist faith when a Chinese doctor was a guest speaker at her church. From that moment on, Gloria knew she wanted to be a missionary.

In college, Ms. Watts became a Catholic. Then she met two members of the Sisters of Our Lady of China. The sisters invited her to be a lay missionary in Taiwan after she graduated. "Tender Loving Care" is Sr. Mary Paul's mantra, which she learned during her time at St. John's College. She has shared that philosophy with the people of Taiwan since 1957.

Her ministry has brought medical services and supplies from the United States as well as introduced medical services and public hygiene education to remote mountainous and coastal areas of Taiwan. She raised funds to start a nursing school for girls and since then has guided many graduates to further their education in Taiwan and abroad. Generations of the lives she has touched can be found near and far. Sr. Mary Paul, is the first and only American member of the Our Lady of China religious order where she continues her work today.

Below is a list of newly established endowments:

- Mr. Gajanan S Bhatt Endowment Fund
- Mrs. Shantaben G Bhatt Endowment Fund
- The Blanche Martyn Barnes Book Award Endowment
- Sister Mary Paul, OLC Endowment Fund
- Jeanie Hansen Memorial Fund



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For more information on setting up an endowment or a \$1,000 named annual scholarship contact Bev.Neisler@hshs.org.