



Visiting Nurse

HOSPICE HOME HOSPICE CARE PALLIATIVE CARE GRIEF SUPPORT

**For Immediate Release**

December 22, 2015

Contact: Kristen Rajchel  
Director of Communications  
(260) 435-3212  
[kisraichel@vnfw.org](mailto:kisraichel@vnfw.org)

## Lutheran Health Services Society presents funds to Visiting Nurse



Charter members of the Lutheran Health Services Society in 1904



The Lutheran Health Services Society, a century-old, philanthropic organization, has voted to dissolve and distribute its remaining Lutheran Health Services Society Foundation funds. On December 11, 2015, members from the Society presented Phyllis Hermann, CEO of Visiting Nurse, a check for \$100,706 representing the total amount given to Visiting Nurse in 2015.

The Lutheran Health Services Society began in 1904 when 39 women were called to serve the needs of the new Lutheran Hospital. The Ladies Society of the Lutheran Hospital went to work sewing sheets and pillow cases for use in the hospital as well as raising funds for beds and various hospital needs. In 1958, their name changed to the Lutheran Hospital Auxiliary of Fort Wayne, fundraising efforts continued and they assumed the management of the hospital gift shop. This dedicated group raised millions of dollars for the non-profit hospital and created “The Festival of Wines,” the first wine-tasting fundraiser in Fort Wayne 29 years ago. In 1995 when the hospital was sold, the group was renamed the Lutheran Health Services Society and expanded its mission to support area non-profit health care organizations.

Through a variety of fundraising efforts including “The Festival of Wines,” the Lutheran Health Services Society has raised and provided \$540,307 to support patient care in Hospice Home.

With the number of members dwindling to 43 and an aging membership, the Lutheran Health Services Society has legally dissolved and will cease to exist at the end of 2015. The Lutheran Health Services Society Foundation funds, prudently invested and managed through the years have been moved to Visiting Nurse to support patient care as well as to fund the Lutheran Health Services Society Nursing Scholarship.

On December 11, at the last annual Lutheran Health Services Society Christmas luncheon, Society Co-President Carol Dominique and Visiting Nurse CEO Phyllis Hermann declared the occasion to be “bittersweet.”

“We are honored to receive the Lutheran Health Services Society Foundation funds and will use them wisely to support our agency’s mission to provide compassionate, end-of-life care,” said Hermann. “For many years, our staff has worked so closely with your organization - we have all grown so fond of each and every one of you. Thank you for your trust and support.”

Visiting Nurse, a Fort Wayne-based non-profit organization, provides end-of-life care in eight counties in northeast Indiana as well as operates Hospice Home, the area’s only free-standing inpatient facility dedicated exclusively to serving the needs of terminally-ill patients and their families. For additional information about Visiting Nurse, please visit the web site at [www.vnfw.org](http://www.vnfw.org)



**Visiting Nurse**

HOSPICE HOME   HOSPICE CARE   PALLIATIVE CARE   GRIEF SUPPORT

5910 Homestead Road • Fort Wayne, IN 46814  
 260-435-3222 • 800-288-4111 (Indiana Only)  
[www.vnfw.org](http://www.vnfw.org)




