

## HONOR A NURSE

### Celebrating the 2017 Nurse of the Year



Linda J. Hassler and Joanne Alderman

*At what age did you first realize you wanted to be a nurse?* The American Nurses Foundation's Honor a Nurse 2017 Nurse of Year, Linda J. Hassler, DNP, RN, GCNS-BC, FNGNA, said she was only 16 years old!

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# CARING FOR THE WELL BEING OF NURSES

IN JANUARY THE FOUNDATION ANNOUNCED THAT **SODEXO** has joined the Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation™(HNNH) Grand Challenge with a contribution of \$2.25 million over three years.

“This is much more than a financial contribution. It reflects Sodexo’s understanding of the importance of nurses and nurses’ health to the delivery of great care. At our core, we are a people company and we focus on improving quality of life,” commented Simon Scrivens, Global Head of Marketing, Sodexo Healthcare.

Sodexo’s support will fund innovative pilot programs to help nurses take action to improve their health with a focus on two of the HNNH key areas: nutrition and quality of life.

“This partnership is a prime example of bringing key players in the lives of nurses and patients together. We are grateful to be joining with Sodexo, a global leader in healthcare food service, facilities management and health solutions, to support this critical ANA Enterprise effort,” said Foundation Board Chair, Tim Porter-O’Grady, DM, EdD, APRN, FAAN.

Sodexo joins Sage Products as corporate health leaders engaged in Healthy Nurse, Healthy Nation.

The HNNH Grand Challenge has grown since its launch and currently has 270 partner organizations and almost 12,000 members.

Organizations and individuals can join the Challenge and get access to a web platform to inspire action, cultivate friendly competition, provide content and resources to users, gather user data, and serve to connect nurses with each other. Both individuals and organizational partners can learn about and **sign up** for the HNNH Grand Challenge by visiting [www.healthynursehealthynation.org](http://www.healthynursehealthynation.org).



# DEFINING HOPE

## “THIS IS WHY I DO WHAT I DO”

Nurses describe the new documentary **Defining HOPE** by Carolyn Jones as inspiring, true, affirming, and essential for families to see. “This is why I do what I do.”

The film, which was funded in part by donations to the American Nurses Foundation, is one of the ways the Foundation showcases and promotes excellence in nursing. **Defining HOPE**, like Jones’ earlier

documentary, **The American Nurse**, takes viewers inside the beauty and reality of patients’ and nurses’ lives. The film tells the story of people weighing what matters most at the most fragile junctures in life, and the nurses who guide them.

The film will be available on DVD in March 2018 for educational licenses and in June for personal use dvds. You can order your copy through [www.hope.film](http://www.hope.film).

A portion of the proceeds from the DVD sales will support programs that advance expertise in palliative nursing practice at the American

Nurses Foundation and the Jonas Center for Nursing and Veterans Healthcare.

Additionally, the film will also be shown on PBS during the month of April for National Patient Decision Month and again in May for National Nurses Week. To find it in your area, visit [www.hope.film](http://www.hope.film). If you’d like the film to be shown in your PBS viewing area, contact your local station to request it.

## REAL NURSING TO TEACH and INSPIRE

Thanks to the generosity of the Rita and Alex Hillman Foundation, the American Nurses Foundation also created a free set of vignettes from the film that nursing faculty, students, and clinicians can use to explore real nursing in real settings. Created by Diane Mager, DNP, RN-BC, the *Defining Hope* Study Guide covers topics ranging from differing family views of medical interventions to nurses’ perceptions of hospice and palliative care. “As a clinician and educator, I appreciate the importance of having innovative methods to encourage conversations about difficult and sensitive topics. We’ve created something that is easy to use, and is relevant for both current and future health care professionals,” says Mager.

The free vignettes, along with teaching prompts and resources, can be found at [www.hope.film/study-guide-videos](http://www.hope.film/study-guide-videos) (password: hope).

To help ensure that nursing is more visible, please consider supporting the American Nurses Foundation with an individual gift – especially one in honor of a nurse who has inspired you. Visit [www.givetonursing.org](http://www.givetonursing.org)



## YOU CAN IMPACT TOMORROW TODAY

As you consider your financial and philanthropic priorities, consider options that include your will or other assets. You can make a greater gift than you ever thought possible and leave a lasting legacy.

One great option is a gift from your IRA. In 2016, Congress approved a tax incentive that makes it easier and more cost effective for donors to roll over funds from their IRA accounts to nonprofit organizations such as American Nurses Foundation.

Please contact Elizabeth Franzino at 1.301.628.5305 or [Elizabeth.Franzino@ana.org](mailto:Elizabeth.Franzino@ana.org) for more information.



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Hassler was honored by Joanne Alderman, MS-N, APRN-CNS(c), RN-BC, FNGNA, geriatric nursing practice educator consultant at Geriatric Collaborative Care Nursing Services (GCCNS) - PLLC, through the Foundation's Honor a Nurse Program, which provides a platform to recognize extraordinary nurses while giving back to the profession. In the nomination, Alderman shared that she is "proud of Linda and the professional nursing accomplishments she has attained and her commitment to nursing, our older adults and their caregivers. She is a vibrant, learned, and dedicated gerontological nurse."

Both ANA members for more than 35 years, Hassler, a New Jersey Nurses Association member, and Alderman, an Oklahoma Nurses Association member, met through the National Gerontological Association's Special Interest Group of Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses in 2006.

But it was back when Hassler was 16, and her father, then a camp director in upstate New York, needed a Health Lodge Secretary/Nursing Assistant that Linda first rose to the challenge and found out how complex, compassionate, and exciting nursing could be. She later went into gerontology because of a personal experience as well; when her great aunt was diagnosed with Alzheimer's and entered a nursing home, Linda saw firsthand the wonderful care provided to her relative and wanted to help make that difference for others.

Since July 2017, Hassler has served as nursing excellence director at Hackensack Meridian Nursing and Rehabilitation. In this role she manages the nurse residency and professional growth ladder programs. At age 53, Hassler went back to school and recently completed her advanced degree in doctor of nursing practice at Rutgers University, where she is now an instructor, entry to baccalaureate practice division, second degree program in the school of nursing.

Hassler has been recognized with various awards throughout her career. In 2016, she was the Distinguished Educator, National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners and received the 2009 New Jersey State

Nurses Association CARES (Clinical, Administration, Research, Education, Support) Award for Excellence in Nursing Education.

Today, Hassler's greatest joy is when she sees a student or new nurse's mind click and understand why they are doing what they do - the science behind nursing. When she reads her teaching or presentation evaluations and sees comments like, "This was eye-opening" or "I thought I knew how to care for an older adult, but today I learned so much more," Linda knows she chose the right career path.

"The American Nurses Foundation receives so many beautiful tributes every year, but this particular tribute highlighted the importance of colleague support and caring for one another," said American Nurses Foundation Chair Tim Porter-O'Grady, DM, EdD, APRN, FAAN. "We are thrilled to recognize Linda!"

The Foundation created the Honor a Nurse program to recognize nurses' extraordinary contributions to healthcare. The program enables colleagues, friends, family, and others to honor a nurse or a group of nurses who have made a positive difference, while supporting the profession philanthropically. The funds raised are used to support nursing research, scholarships, and programs to improve nurses' lives and the nursing profession. Nurses who have been honored qualify for the Honor a Nurse - Nurse of the Year award. For more information and to honor a nurse, visit [www.givetonursing.org/honoranurse](http://www.givetonursing.org/honoranurse). Consider recognizing the nurses you know - a great way to celebrate National Nurses Week, May 6-12!

## NURSES ON BOARDS

### New Tools Available for Getting Nurses on Boards

The American Nurses Foundation is using its role within the ANA Enterprise to increase the presence of nurses on boards of directors to new audiences and

add value nurse leaders across the country. In 2018, the American Nurses Foundation is launching a new initiative to engage with facilities that have received Pathway to Excellence or Magnet designation. This collaboration will enable new audiences to engage in this work in a way that best suits their organization's needs and priorities.

As a part of these efforts, the Foundation has launched several new tools which are also available to the general public.



## Honor A Nurse

Sponsored by **American Nurses Foundation**

Take a moment to say "Thank you" to a nurse! May 6-12 is National Nurses Week. It's the perfect time to celebrate that exceptional nurse, friend, colleague, mentor, or educator who has touched your life!

Visit [givetonursing.org/honoranurse](http://givetonursing.org/honoranurse) to honor your special nurse.

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## Corporate Advisory Board — THANK YOU!

Thank you to the 2018 Corporate Advisory Board for your expression of commitment to further the mission to transform the nation's health through the power of nursing. We are pleased to welcome MEDITECH to the group

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### NURSES ON BOARDS, from page 3

Getting on Board is a compilation of resources for nurses seeking board opportunities. It starts with important questions to consider in identifying passions as well as resources for building governance skills and opportunities to seek out board positions.

Making the Case to Your Healthcare Organization is intended for a Chief Nursing Officer or senior nursing leader and contains resources on how a nurse can advocate to the board and executive leadership of their organization for a nurse to join the board. This was inspired by Cole Edmonson, DNP, RN, FACHE, NEA-BC, FAAN, who was profiled by the Foundation and advocated for a nurse to join the board while still interviewing for his Chief Nursing Officer role at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas and later identified the successful candidate to be the hospital's first nurse to serve on the board.

To build on these and other resources, the Foundation is working to develop a pilot program with several facilities to co-create specialized programming that meets the priorities of the individual facility.

To learn more about the Foundation's efforts to increase representation of nurses on all types of boards of directors and the impact this can have on healthcare across the country, visit [www.nurseboardleadership.org](http://www.nurseboardleadership.org).

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