

Letter to the MGHNAA Membership and MGH School of Nursing Graduates:

A number of Massachusetts General Hospital School of Nursing (MGHSON) graduates recently received a mailing from the Massachusetts General Hospital Institute of Health Professions (MGHIHP) more specifically from Judith Fong Bressler, MGHSON Class of 1968, newly appointed member of the Board of Trustees at the MGHIHP. The mailing is a solicitation for a gift (funds) to be directed toward the MGHIHP Nursing Program. Although this is a commendable effort, the implication in the mailing as identified by a number of our Massachusetts General Hospital Nurses' Alumnae Association (MGHNAA) members is that the MGHNAA has collaborated with and is a part of this initiative. Let me be clear, this is not the case. As directed by the membership, the MGHNAA **has not** and **will not share** the names and addresses that are in our data base with anyone. It is our steadfast policy to preserve the integrity of this list at your request and we endeavor to do so. Any MGHNAA member who has received such a mailing, be assured, your address was from another source and you are encouraged to call the MGHIHP at 617-726-2947 and ask to speak with the External Affairs Office if you have any questions or wish to have your name removed from the MGHIHP solicitation list. The MGHNAA is pleased to continue its support of the MGHIHP apart from this occurrence.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform you that as an Association we are dedicated to supporting nursing education. The MGHNAA generously supports MGHIHP nursing students with the Ruth Sleeper Scholarship Award, Adele Corkum Award, and Student Paper Award. The MGHNAA Board is currently discussing a new award for a student in the new MGHIHP RN Accelerated Program. Active MGHNAA members attending graduate school at the MGHIHP are eligible for additional support through the MGHNAA Scholarship and Loan Funds. Since its inception, we have supported the annual MGHIHP Scholarship Gala, with a contribution of \$5,000 to be used for scholarships for MGHIHP students and we invite MGHIHP nursing students and faculty to join us at the Gala. At the time of the closing of the MGHSON (1873-1981), the MGH Training School for Nurses Endowment Fund (*The Fund*) established by the MGHNAA in 1914, deeded *The Deed of Gift of The Fund* to the MGH in 1924 and entrusted the MGH with \$21,588.91 to benefit nursing education with the restriction that in the event there were no longer student nurses being trained at the MGH the income generated from *The Fund* would go to the MGHNAA. The MGHSON closed years before the MGHIHP nursing program was established. However, the Board of the MGHNAA voted to consider the new program, soon to be opened, as a continuation of nursing education at the MGH. *The Fund*, as of June 2008, was valued at \$3.6 million and the annual average distribution of \$133,436 is directed toward nursing faculty salaries at the MGHIHP. The MGHNAA has been especially generous preserving historical artifacts and working in conjunction with nurse historians to fund those activities that record nursing history and the MGHSON history. Rest assured that as an Association, on your behalf, we support nursing education and pertinent interests at the MGHIHP. You can feel enormously proud of your generosity.

The MGHNAA respects the right of individual graduates to designate philanthropic funds to whatever interest and priority one might choose. I would be remiss if I did not mention our own Philanthropy Program that provides the necessary funds to maintain the Association and ensure our support of the activities that serve our mission.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please feel free to e-mail me at the MGHNAA office or call the MGHNAA and I will be pleased to speak with you directly. Along with me, your Board of Directors wishes you and your family good health and happiness in the New Year.

Barbara Dunderdale, RN

President

MGHNAA

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