



Former LSNA members Cindy Lapointe (L) and Nancy Dasautels (R) are pictured with Rose Grady, the 2018 recipient of the LSNA Scholarship.

Leicester Samaritan Nursing Assn. Scholarship Greater Worcester Community Foundation

The Leicester Samaritan Nursing Association (LSNA) created this scholarship in 1984. It is awarded to Leicester residents pursuing careers in nursing, medicine or a related field.

The LSNA was founded around 1910 to provide in-home nursing care for Leicester residents. At that time, hospital visits were too expensive – and too far away – for many townspeople. The town doctor could not address every need for minor medical care.

The LSNA consisted of one hired nurse and a Board of community members who supported its mission. The first nurse was Margaret E. Newman. She walked to her patients' homes carrying her black bag of nursing equipment, occasionally catching rides with neighbors in their horse-drawn buggies. She performed a wide range of services, from bringing down fevers to delivering babies. She would even prepare dinner, do laundry, or whatever was needed to take care of the patient. Patients paid whatever they could afford – in coins, eggs, chickens or garden vegetables. Shirley Doane, an LSNA nurse from 1953 to the mid-1990's, remembers that patients and families insisted on feeding her while she was there: "If they learned that I loved peach pie, they'd serve peach pie every time I visited. There were often eclairs and coffee. I finally asked them to serve me nothing but toast!"

From the 1950's to the 1970's, the Association was at its height with 10 board members and two full-time nurses. Patients paid \$5.00 per visit if they could afford it. The Association mailed an annual fundraising appeal to every household in Leicester; donations ensured that all residents could receive care. The days of delivering babies now over, the nurses gave baths, monitored medications, changed dressings and gave injections. Eventually, they were supplanted by Visiting Nurse Associations connected to Worcester hospitals.

In 1984, when its last patient transferred to a VNA nurse, the LSNA stopped offering nursing care. It began awarding this scholarship to keep the organization's name alive and do something useful with its remaining funds. Board members chose the recipients until 1996, when they dissolved the organization and transferred the funds and selection process to the Foundation. The LSNA's long history of service and dedication to high-quality patient care live on in this scholarship, helping new generations of Leicester students pursue careers in medicine and nursing.

For more information, please contact:
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