

## **Report of the Executive Board for 2014**

### **Sharon House Corporation**

April 25, 2015

In the chapter titled “Marriage” in Science and Health, the Discoverer and Founder of Christian Science writes, “Fulfilling the different demands of their united spheres, their sympathies should blend in sweet confidence and cheer, each partner sustaining the other, — thus hallowing the union of interests and affections, in which the heart finds peace and home.” While Mrs. Eddy was referring to husband and wife in marriage, we feel that this citation also describes the mutually supportive relationships for which we strive in the four-way partnership between Sharon House Corporation, the Christian Science Nurse, the patient and the Christian Science Community.

The stated purpose of Sharon House Corporation is, “To support Christian Science nursing and its availability to those relying on Christian Science for healing.” We have found that this purpose differs in two subtle but very important ways from the stated purpose of most organizations which put themselves forward as Christian Science care facilities. First, Sharon House is not primarily a “facility” although it owns and maintains a facility that can be used for Christian Science care; rather, as we find in the Book of Isaiah , “Sharon shall be a fold of flocks ... a place for the herds to lie down in, for my people that have sought me.” (Isa 65:10) Second, Sharon House is not itself providing care to patients – the nurses do that.

So what does Sharon House Corporation do? Quite simply, it supports Christian Science nursing anywhere within our field! It makes a refuge for nursing care available in Toronto for nurses to use in their care of patients. It contracts with seven nurses who jointly agree that between them they can provide 24/7 care on short notice and for an indefinite period forward EITHER at the patient’s home or at the Sharon House shelter. Sharon House supports nursing. At the patient’s request, the nurse supports the patient. Healing validates the Christian Science Movement and the local Movement increasingly supports Sharon House Corporation and nursing. This is a union of interests and affections.

Sharon House makes a gift of service to the field. Christian Scientists express their gratitude for this gift through their donations to Sharon House - a union of interests and affections.

There are always issues to work through in the human realm, but when we all see that we are striving for the “mutually supportive relationship”, Love shows us the way.

You all realize that the current mode of operation of Sharon House Corporation does not conform to the traditional operational model of a Christian Science Care Facility. This is increasingly being realized throughout the Christian Science Movement and with

growing interest. The Board is most grateful that many of the large and small problems of making Sharon House useful to the Christian Science Movement in unconventional ways have been solved over the past three years. Solutions have often required the close cooperation of the Board and independent nurses.

For example, how do several independent nurses each bill their multiple patients when more than one patient is at the Sharon shelter and more than one nurse is involved with their care? How do we gracefully help a patient, who has been healed but who finds the Sharon shelter to be most agreeable, to move out – and still retain the friendship of that individual? How do we compassionately explain to a prospective Christian Science patient and his non-Christian Science family that we cannot accommodate a patient who is currently relying upon upon the active involvement of a medical doctor for healing?

We think that the Corporation has done rather well in 2014. The Sharon House shelter has provided rooms for just under 300 patient nights during 2014 and a further 200 patient nights in the first quarter of 2015. As the Treasurer has told you, regular contributions and periodic gifts from Christian Scientists slightly more than covered Sharon House expenses in 2014. The refuge is in good repair and independent nurses are providing extensive home care in addition to their commitment to 24/7 as required from time to time at the refuge.

We thank you all as you join us in supporting Christian Science nursing.