



Past *Forward*

PROVIDENCE ARCHIVES NEWSLETTER

Sisters of Providence, Mother Joseph Province • Providence Health & Services

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Fall Festivities

Emily Hughes Dominick

Fall brings two notable events: in September we celebrate Mission Day in ministries across Providence Health & Services and in October we celebrate Archives Month as do countless archives across the country.

We mark both of these events in the archives because each is an opportunity to reflect on the work we do each day. In each case, we are reminded that sharing the information that we hold in the archives is vital to a

richer understanding of our past that informs our future.

Mission Day is an internal event celebrated within Providence Health & Services; the genesis of Mission Day is discussed in the article on page two. Also, see the “SP Spotlight” for more in depth information about one Sister of Providence who was actively involved in the activities leading up to the creation of Mission Day.

Archives Month, on the other hand, is a national event

intended to make archives more visible and accessible to the public.

This year’s theme for Archives Month in Washington state is “Fairs and Festivals” in recognition of the 50th Anniversary of the Seattle World’s Fair which will be celebrated in 2012. For this issue’s “Picturing Providence” column, Peter Schmid has chosen an image on this general theme. For other Archives Month activities, see “What’s New in the Archives” on the back page. ☞

Picturing Providence

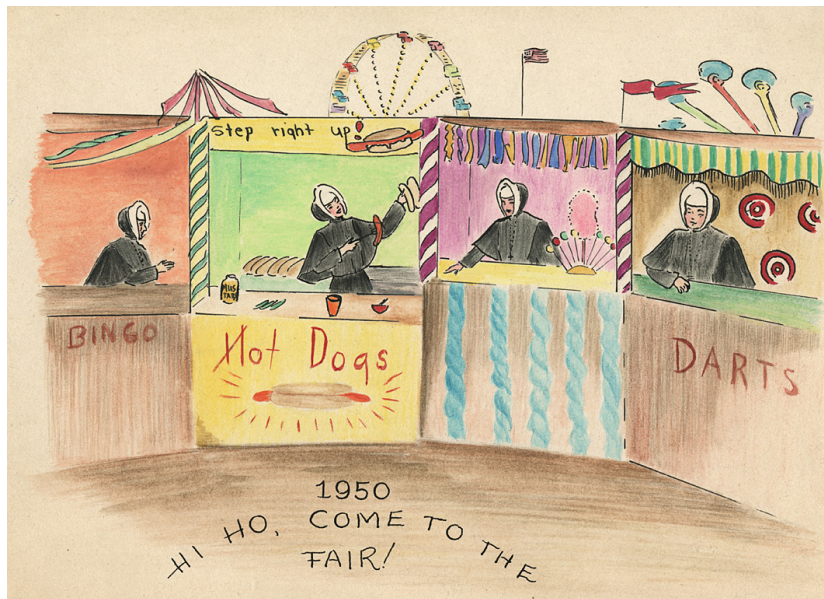
Peter F. Schmid

The Picturing Providence image for this issue is a bit different than most, because I have selected an illustration rather than a photograph.

In keeping with the theme of Archives Month in the state of Washington – Fairs and Festivals – this illustration depicts a fair theme at Providence Hospital in Seattle, in 1950. Sisters are shown at fair booths

offering bingo, hot dogs and a dart game; in the background are carnival rides.

This illustration is one of seventeen similarly colorful and whimsical pictures contained in a small album entitled “Feast Day Memories 1946-1952.” The album records the themes of celebrations put on by sister staff to celebrate the feast day of Sister Providence of the Sacred Heart (Alice Elizabeth Mooney, 1898-1965), who served as superior of the hospital from 1946-1952. Though we don’t know who the artist was, it is clear that all of the illustrations were done by the same person. The album was donated to the Archives in 1993 by Sister Eugenia Sullivan (Gladys Marie, 1918-1995) who served as the business office manager and secretary to Sister Providence of the Sacred Heart. ☞



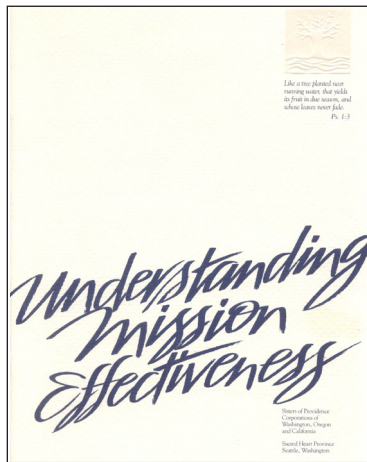
A History of Mission Effectiveness

This article was written collaboratively by Loretta Greene and Emily Hughes Dominick with input from Sr. Yvonne LeBlanc, SP. It is a brief introduction to the development of mission effectiveness in Providence Health & Services. A more extensive history is forthcoming.

Each September, staff at all Providence ministries take time to reflect on the mission and values that permeate their daily work. What is celebrated today as Mission Week or Mission Day originated in the late 1970s with the development of mission effectiveness programs at various ministries in the health system. At that time, Sisters of Providence at several Providence ministries were responding to a movement within Catholic health care for hospital staff to instill gospel values in all facets of their daily work.

In 1977, Sister Yvonne LeBlanc, SP, became Director of Pastoral Services at St. Vincent Medical Center. Two years later, Sister Marleen Hull, SP, Assistant Administrator, Patient Care at the medical center, asked Sister Yvonne to accompany her to visit Mercy Hospital in Roseburg, Oregon. There they attended a presentation by the Sisters of Mercy who had begun a mission program for their employees. Inspired by this presentation, Sisters Yvonne and Marleen began to develop a mission program at St. Vincent's called "Christian Awareness" that focused on the Christian commitment of the hospital and ways to carry out this commitment through the spirit of the Sisters of Providence. Early attempts at integrating the program through administration were not successful until individual department heads came to Sister Yvonne asking for help dealing with specific issues, such

as how to answer difficult questions from the public about the Catholic identity of the hospital. She told them the stories of Mother Emilie Gamelin and Mother Joseph, foundresses of the Sisters of Providence in Montreal and the Northwest, who served the needy with compassion. In time, other department managers called Sister Yvonne to meet with their staff and through discussion they began relating mission to their daily work. Administrators began to see the impact of Sister Yvonne's work and understand



Cover of the Understanding Mission Effectiveness booklet, 1989

her goals.

In 1982, the administrator at St. Vincent's invited Sister Yvonne to lead a retreat for hospital managers. The theme was "The Values of the Spirit Translated into Management" and the retreat booklet contained the *Providence of God* prayer. The retreat resembled a mini-mission effectiveness program and focused on topics like being faithful, consistent, loyal and committed.

Questioning what it meant to be a "Catholic hospital" was not unique to St. Vincent's. In fact administrators and personnel in Catholic hospitals across the country had begun to ask themselves this same question.

To address this issue, the Catholic Health Association (CHA) formed a task force which created a handbook called *Evaluative Criteria for Catholic Health Care Facilities: A Working Document for Self-Renewal* (1980). The former St. Ignatius Province Provincial Council minutes from October 6, 1980 discuss the implementation of CHA's Evaluative Criteria at their ministries east of the mountains. By the next year, sisters were appointed to facilitate the CHA plan in several of their ministries. At St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington, Sister Honora Collins, SP, helped the hospital start a program called Council on Caring (See *SP Spotlight: Sister Honora Collins* for more information); Sister M. Michelle Holland, SP, joined the staff of Sacred Heart Medical Center, Spokane, Washington where she began the Values Enrichment Program; Sister Eileen Croghan, SP, coordinated the Christian Effectiveness Circle at St. Patrick Hospital, Missoula, Montana; and Sister Claudia McMillan, SP, led the effort at Columbus Hospital, Great Falls, Montana.

In 1984 Sister Yvonne was appointed Vice-President of Mission Effectiveness at the health system level for all Providence ministries west of the mountains. Sister Yvonne formed an advisory committee of dedicated people in the system who offered her guidance in building various components of the mission program. Mission effectiveness programs took a strong foothold in each ministry through the completion of departmental mission practicums, a self-evaluation on fulfilling the healing ministry of Christ. A development that is common in the system

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SP Spotlight: Sister Honora Collins



*Emily Hughes Dominick
Associate Archivist*

Though Sister Honora Collins had a long career in the health care field, this Spotlight will focus on her last ministry before retirement: Director of Council on Caring at St. Mary Medical Center in Walla Walla, Washington. This newly created position was a precursor to the mission effectiveness departments that would become commonplace in Providence health care institutions in the mid-1980s. The files relating to the Council on Caring were recently received in a large accession (#2011-041) from St. Mary Medical Center. These files along with chronicles entries provided source materials for this article.

Sister Honora first came to Walla Walla on November 1, 1981 to form an Evaluative Criteria Committee following the model established by the Catholic Health Association in 1979. Her task was first to implement a self-evaluation to determine how St. Mary Medical Center was fulfilling its ministry of "healing in the spirit



Sr. Honora Collins, SP, circa 1980s, image #SP4316.1

Name in Religion: Mary John

Number in Religion: 4316

Date of Birth: 1912

Entrance to Novitiate: 1935

First Profession: 1937

Date of Death: 1995

of Jesus." This evaluation was a two-year process that involved surveying selected members of the staff to understand how they understood their role in this mission. As the chronicles explain, a steering committee was appointed to propose and implement a program "examining specific areas of hospital service where renewal of ideals can build the sense of concern and commitment in those and with those we serve."

The result of this committee work was the Council on Caring, a group of employees headed by Sister Honora, who worked to raise awareness of gospel values in all areas of hospital work. The purpose of the on-going program was to help employees and patients understand the philosophy that makes Catholic hospitals different from other health care institutions, not to convert anyone to the Catholic faith. As the annual

ist of the chronicles wrote in 1982, "Whereas the ownership and operation of health care facilities is a multi-million dollar business the conduct of that business by the Sisters of Providence must always be guided by Christian principles of faith, hope and love, a reverence for the holiness of human love.

After one year of the program, more than sixty hospital employees, physicians, and volunteers had become actively involved. The Council on Caring continued its work implementing programs along the way. Sister Honora directed the program until 1988, when she retired to Mount St. Joseph, Spokane, Washington. In these last years of active ministry Sister Honora was one among many Sisters of Providence shaping what would become known as "mission effectiveness." ❧



verbatim

I would have loved knowing Sister Honora Collins. I feel that she and I would have been great friends.

-Sister Yvonne Leblanc

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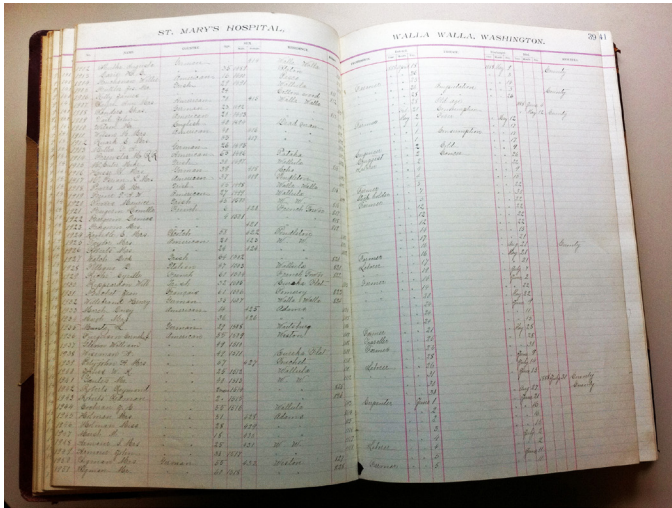
today was the establishment of missioning ceremonies for administrators. The Sisters of Providence provincial superior performed the actual missioning and the corporation president was always present, reinforcing the value and importance of mission as a part of each employee's work. Other components of the system-wide program were the mission

statement, mission facilitators in each institution, an orientation program including stories of the foundresses, and the *Principles and Guidelines of Mission Effectiveness* (1986). The final document *Understanding Mission Effectiveness* (1989), after five years, brought the program to a unified whole.

The idea of "mission effectiveness" developed out of the efforts to relate the mission

of the Sisters of Providence and the healing ministry of Christ to the administration, departments and staff at each institution sponsored by the Sisters of Providence. Likewise, the celebration of Mission Week or Mission Day developed as a time to come together to renew the spirit that was made a part of the daily work of each individual at every ministry. ❧

What's New in the Archives?



St. Mary Medical Center Patient Ledger, 1880-1907, received as part of accession #2011-071

NEW ACCESSIONS

Notable accessions over the past several months include a collection of hymnals used in the chapel at Sacred Heart Medical Center (Spokane, Wash.) (Accession 2011-071); and a large collection of materials from St. Mary Medical Center (Walla Walla, Wash.) including financial ledgers, patient ledgers, departmental information, files relating to the Cadet Nurses facilities constructed at the end of World War II, newsletters, and news clippings (Accession 2011-041).

ARCHIVES MONTH EVENTS

Puget Sound area archive repositories organized several activities for Archives Month this year including two Archives Fairs: the first was held Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at the Seattle Public Library and the second will be held at the Puget Sound Branch of the Washington State Archives in Bellevue on October 29, 2011. A lecture in conjunction with the Fair at the Seattle Public Library was given by local historian, Paula Becker. A free workshop titled Basics of Historical Research will be held concurrently with the Fair in Bellevue. Contact the archives for more information.

Providence Archives staff, in conjunction with staff at Mount St. Joseph in Spokane, will host a celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Mount. This will include an open house, tours of the building, and sharing of materials from the archives including photos and a video. If you will be in Spokane, join us on October 26, 2011 on the 5th floor of Mount St. Joseph from 10:30 a.m. to noon. Refreshments will be provided. ☞

Providence Archives
4800 37th Ave SW
Seattle WA 98126-2793

Archivist
Loretta Zwolak Greene, M.A., CA

Visual Resources Archivist
Peter Schmid, CA

Associate Archivist
Emily Hughes Dominick, M.A., CA

Assistant Archivist-Technical
Pam Hedquist

Telephone: 206.937.4600
Fax: 206.923.4001
E-mail: archives@providence.org
Internet:
www.providence.org/phs/archives

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