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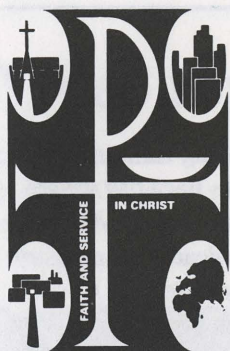
Lutheran Deaconess Association

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THE LDA *Today*

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Photo courtesy of Phil King, The Lutheran Home of Greater Peoria.

Mary Phillips (right) visits with Charlotte Bruninga, a resident at The Lutheran Home of Greater Peoria.

Seeing God's hand at work

If Charlotte or Joe had their way, Mary would stay.

Walk down any hall of The Lutheran Home of Greater Peoria (Illinois) and you'll hear the same refrain from residents, staff, and administration.

"I sure wish we could keep her here," says Joe Mulay, a resident of the home. "We think the world of her."

Mary Phillips is completing a year's internship as a chaplain at the home. The internship is the last phase in her deaconess

education/formation program.

"This is where it all came together," says Mary. "The board and administration of the home were looking for ways to better define and expand their chaplaincy program. I was looking for an internship site where I could work with older people and use my training in spirituality. It's been a great match. I see God's hand at work here."

As an intern, Mary was given the freedom and encour-

agement to develop new ways of doing group work with the residents. At the same time she was helping define the pastoral needs of residents, their families, and the staff.

"Mary has been an asset to this program in part because of her experience in health care as a registered nurse and, in part, because she is a mature woman with the sensitivity and skill to draw people out," says Ron Jaeger, the home's administrator.

Mary is at the bedside of the dying. She also leads Bible studies and works in small groups with those who need emotional and spiritual support.

"I do a lot of listening," says Mary. "The people here deal with loss all the time—loss of their spouse, their home, their independence. They need permission to express themselves. I feel such a sense of fulfillment in this ministry."

When Mary finishes her internship, she will have completed the LDA's Plan 4 program of education and formation. She will be consecrated for deaconess ministry in April.

By the way, Charlotte, Joe, and the others get their wish. Deaconess Mary Phillips becomes a chaplain of The Lutheran Home this spring. God's hand at work.

**Want to
know more
about
Plan 4?**

**Contact Mary
Hurst at the LDA
office
Phone:
219-464-6925
E-mail:
deacserv@exodus.
valpo.edu**

From my perspective . . .



Deaconess Louise Williams

It was a difficult decision.

We had only ten or eleven minutes, and we had so much we could say. Finally we made the hard choice. We selected four deaconesses to film for our new video: **April Boyden**, a hospice chaplain in Houston, Texas; **Ruth Nielsen**, a parish deaconess and church musician in the Cleveland area; **Addie Wilkins**, a social ministry worker in St. Louis; and **Cherryll Hoffman**, a counselor in Iowa.

The video crew went on the road to spend a day with each deaconess. Then there were more hard decisions about what to include and what to cut. The brief video doesn't, of course, tell the **whole** story.

To get the whole story, you would need to take each segment of the video and multiply it by 100.

Any one of the over four hundred LDA deaconesses could have made an interesting contribution to the video. The ministries shown might have

included—nursing home, hospital or prison chaplains; parish ministers working with youth, children, elderly members, or any folks needing special attention; workers in homeless shelters, social service agencies, and group homes; deaconesses on district and synod staffs and on faculties of high schools, colleges, and seminaries; advocates for immigrants and those unemployed; nurses in hospitals and parishes; women serving in unlikely places such as inner city public schools or state welfare agencies.

To get the **whole** story, you would need to see all the people touched each day by all those deaconesses. Then you would need to multiply that by the number of days in a deaconess' life of service, stretching from the first activities as a student fieldworker to the continuing work of a retired deaconess.

But even that would not be the **whole** story. The story, thank God, is not finished yet. Twenty-two students are cur-

rently preparing for ministry as deaconesses. Each day we are in touch with women who are considering deaconess ministry as their way of serving Christ. The story goes on.

We invite you to be a part of that continuing story—by supporting our work with your prayers and gifts, by considering whether deaconess ministry might be for you or someone you know, by helping us identify places where deaconesses could serve as interns or graduates, by offering encouragement to a deaconess, by getting to know a deaconess, or, most importantly, by your own “deaconess-like” service where you live and work.

May God bless you.

Sharing Christ's service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Louise Williams".

Louise Williams
Executive Director

Taege retiring from LDA Board

“Retiring” is not the first word one would think of when describing Marlys Taege. Try tireless; dedicated; self-assured; but *not* retiring. Yet that's just what she's doing.

Taege, retired corporate affairs administrator of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Watertown, Wisconsin, has completed her term as a member of the LDA's Board of Directors. She is retiring, but not before leaving her indelible imprint on the organization.

“Marlys' contributions to

the LDA's strategic planning process were critical to its success. And her work as a member of the development committee of the board has been most valuable,” says Board President Lynn Bahls. “We are grateful for her commitment and her leadership.” ■

Marlys Taege (right), received a certificate of appreciation for her service to the LDA Board from its president, Lynn Bahls.



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Video reveals heart of deaconess ministry

In less time than it takes to program a VCR to record your favorite television show, you can view the new LDA video, *Faith*

and Service in Christ.

Your investment of ten minutes in time will yield an opportunity to meet four dea-

conesses, hear from people whose lives have been touched by them, and learn of the scope and variety of their ministries. And you will come to know that at the heart of every deaconess ministry is *Faith and Service in Christ.*

(For more on the video, see the letter from Deaconess Louise Williams, executive director of the LDA, on page 2.)

Program planners please note: The video, which comes complete with a study guide and discussion questions, is available at no charge. You pay only the cost of return postage.

Order your copy today. Use the bright blue order form enclosed in this mailing or call Mary at 219-464-6925. ■



Clockwise from top left: Deaconesses Ruth Nielsen, Cherryll Hoffman, April Boyden, and Addie Wilkins.

Hold the phone!

Answers to this quiz may surprise you

Test your LDA Phonathon knowledge by answering each question with true or false:

1. Each and every caller is a volunteer. T/F
2. The LDA Phonathon is conducted on only two nights each spring. T/F
3. A generous donor covers the costs of all calls made during the Phonathon. T/F
4. Calls are made from a Valparaiso area business at greatly reduced rates. T/F

If you answered true to each question, you get an "A." You already know that volunteers—deaconesses, students, friends from the community, LDA board members and staff—look

forward to this once-a-year opportunity. It's our chance to thank you for your past support, to ask for your continued support, to share the latest news about the LDA, and to hear your news, too.

Dean and Beverly Lueking have agreed to serve as volunteer coordinators for the ninth annual phonathon in April. Dean, senior pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, River Forest, Illinois, is a former member of the LDA Board.

When Dean, Beverly, or another phonathon volunteer caller says, "LDA," please respond with "YES!" ■

Volunteer coordinators, Dean and Beverly Lueking.





Deaconess Gladys Gilmore with friends DéAndre (left) and Jason (right).

AAL grant supports recruitment initiative

A grant of \$9,500 from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) will provide funding to help the LDA develop a five-year recruitment plan.

Deaconess Olivia Hartung, the LDA's director of formation and laity services, has primary responsibility for what she calls "innovative and ambitious recruitment plans." She says, "This grant allows us to expand our recruitment goals and activities by defraying the costs of some initiatives we could not otherwise afford to take."

The plan is designed to increase enrollment in the LDA's programs of deaconess education and formation. Included are strategies for recruitment of minority students, as well as those geared for on-campus, transfer, and graduate students.

Thank you, AAL, for your generous support! ■

Among you as one who serves

Name:

Deaconess Gladys Gilmore

Ministry:

Parish Deaconess, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Cleveland, Ohio

Responsibilities:

Gladys does hospital and shut-in visitation, assists in public worship (including weddings and funerals), works with the Saturday Program (ages 4 - 12), is the welcoming committee, and temporarily serves as church secretary.

Gladys says:

The best part of my ministry is being with the people. I love the opportunities I have to interact with senior citizens. And the parents of young children get a lot of my attention. I think it is so important to get them to take responsibility for the Chris-

tian growth of their children. And of course there are the children themselves. I just love them. We have a youth group with 22 kids and a Saturday Program for the younger ones. I started the Saturday Program in 1989 and it's still going strong.

From DéAndre, age 5:

(Pictured above)

"My favorite thing about Miss Gladys is that she brings me to the Saturday Program and to Sunday School every Sunday. She's my friend." ■

Note: Gladys completed the LDA's Plan 4 deaconess education/formation program. Do either Gladys or Mary Phillips (front page story) sound like you or someone you know? **Call Mary at 219-464-6925 for more information on Plan 4.**



Debbie Bartling

Deaconess student headed for career in counseling

Debbie Bartling transferred to Valparaiso University as a junior student in theology and psychology to enter the deaconess program. After she graduates and is consecrated as a deaconess, Debbie plans to work in a congregation and pursue advanced studies in counseling. Do you know someone like Debbie who might be interested in deaconess ministry? Someone who has a heart for God's hurting people? Let us know. Call Olivia at 219-464-6925. ■