



Nursing Student Stipend Program Donor Impact Report

Fall 2009



**Eleni Drakos, B.S., R.N.
Recent Stipend Student**

With her sister (left)
and mother (right)

At Lahey, I was able to become an R.N. with the help of the stipend program. This program is such a gift and opportunity for people like me to be able to achieve educational goals while juggling career and family responsibilities.

Through this program Lahey is bridging the gap of the nursing shortage and creating an example of higher learning, achievement, and empowerment for me and other aspiring nurses. The impact is life altering.

On behalf of everyone participating in the Lahey-Middlesex Nursing Program, I want to thank Lahey and our donors.

I am so grateful.

Training Staff to Become Exceptional Nurses

Delivering Extraordinary Care

In just over three years, Lahey's Women's Leadership Council (WLC) has raised more than \$450,000 for the Clinic's nursing student stipend program, a model philanthropic effort created in response to the nation's nursing shortage. Through a collaborative partnership with Middlesex Community College, Lahey provides access to a part-time associate of science in nursing program designed to enable qualified Clinic staff members in non-nursing roles to make the transition into nursing.

"The WLC selected the nursing student stipend program as a fund-raising priority for four compelling reasons," explains Carolyn Ain, chair of the WLC fund-raising committee. "Training existing staff to become professional nurses addresses the national nursing shortage, while it empowers individuals to advance themselves. The program also assures Lahey a supply of proven employees, and enables the Clinic's patients to continue to receive the best nursing care possible."

For Kathleen Jose, M.S.N., R.N., chief nursing officer, the WLC's generosity has far-reaching consequences. "Words can not begin to express my gratitude to the WLC members for directing their philanthropic efforts to support the nursing student stipend program. It is with their support that we were able to reach out to more than 175 Lahey patients and friends to fund stipends enabling 33 Lahey Clinic colleagues to become professional nurses."

WLC donor Liz Gilroy adds that the program provides an opportunity for fulfilling professional aspirations that once seemed unobtainable. "The student stipend program offers a man or woman the choice of a new career and life that they could not have before. I admire someone with that kind of drive—he or she deserves all the help possible."



Kathleen S. Jose, M.S.N., R.N., Chief Nursing Officer, and Carolyn Ain, Chair, Fund-raising Committee of the Women's Leadership Council.



Anne Marie Teuber
Nursing Stipend Donor

The stipend program gives a woman a fighting chance to achieve her dream without neglecting herself or her family.

I was particularly impressed by the passion and devotion of the nurse I met.

I realized just how committed, determined, and self-disciplined a working parent has to be to get through such a challenging program and still effectively run the other parts of one's life.

Being a student is some of the hardest work I've ever done myself. I know that even with a stipend it's still a demanding full-time requirement for these aspiring nurses.

I am honored to help these students become professional nurses.

At a Glance: Nursing Student Stipend Program Facts

- Year founded: 2005
- Education partner: Middlesex Community College
- Number of graduates: 13
- Number of graduates currently employed at Lahey: 12
- Current number of nursing students in stipend program: 21
- Student age range: 20s-50s
- Employment at Lahey Clinic while enrolled: Endoscopy Scheduler, Lab Assistant, Operating Room Surgical Technician, Phlebotomist, Secretary, Security Officer

Women's Leadership Council Sets 2009-2010 Goals

Lahey's Women's Leadership Council (WLC) held its annual meeting this summer to present a strategic plan which set education, marketing, membership, fund-raising, and outreach goals.

In the coming year, the WLC will reach out to past and prospective donors to encourage continued financial support for nursing and other priority programs at Lahey.

"We are entering the next phase in the WLC's evolution as an important volunteer leadership group at the Clinic," says Cindy Gruber, WLC co-chair. "As a patient, donor, and volunteer, I am proud of our accomplishments to date and have no doubt that we will continue to achieve great things in the future."

For more information about this group and supporting Lahey, please contact Ruth Maffa in the Lahey Clinic Philanthropy Office, 781-744-3968.



Lahey's Women's Leadership Council and guests met on July 28, 2009, to present and approve a strategic plan to support Lahey Clinic.