



## History of Christian Science Nursing at Sunrise Haven

“Christian Science Nurse. A member of The Mother Church who represents himself or herself as a Christian Science nurse shall be one who has a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice, who thoroughly understands the practical wisdom necessary in a sick room, and who can take proper care of the sick.” (*Church Manual* of The First Church of Christ, Scientist, in Boston, Massachusetts, by Mary Baker Eddy, p. 49)

### The 1940s

Hillside Haven was founded by Mrs. Millicent Blankenship in Seattle in 1941, and incorporated in July 1945. In March 1949, the corporate name was changed to Seattle Sanatorium for Christian Scientists. That same year Mrs. Blankenship and other Christian Scientists in the area founded Newhaven at 1701 13th St., Puyallup.

### The 1950s

Newhaven was incorporated in April 1951. In 1956, Seattle Sanatorium’s name was changed to Sunrise House. In 1959, Sunrise House moved from 412 29th Avenue South, Seattle, to a new building at 500 30th Avenue South, Seattle.

### The 1960s

In 1962, Newhaven, Inc. expanded to a new building in Puyallup with 27 patient rooms. Washington State granted it a nursing home license for 50 beds. A residence for eight Christian Science nurses opened on the Puyallup property in 1964.

In the mid-sixties, many Christian Science practitioners requested that a Visiting Christian Science Nursing Service be established. This need was satisfied in 1966, when a Christian Science nurse listed in *The Christian Science Journal* was brought to Seattle from Pleasant View Home in Concord, New Hampshire.

In January 1966, both Sunrise House and Newhaven were accredited by the Department of Care of The Mother Church.

### The 1970s

In April 1970, Sunrise House and Newhaven merged. Sunrise House in Seattle was closed, and the combined Puyallup-based facility was renamed Sunrise House/Newhaven. In 1974, the Visiting Christian Science Nursing Service territory was expanded to include Everett and Tacoma.

### The 1980s

In August 1983, Sunrise Haven became the legal name of Sunrise House/ Newhaven. In the late 1980s, after an extensive series of workshops that examined the *Church Manual* by-law “Christian Science Nurse” (provided at top of page), the Christian Science Board of Directors published “The Foundation for Christian Science Nursing,” which amplifies the bylaw and establishes the standards for the practice of Christian Science nursing.

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### The 1990s

In 1992, Sunrise Haven began its own individualized training program to prepare those wishing to represent themselves as Christian Science nurses. This training, based on the bylaw “Christian Science Nurse,” prepares students to meet the requirements for listing in *The Christian Science Journal*. These include spiritual readiness and the development of true Christian Science nursing qualities, judgment, and maturity.

In 1996, the Sunrise Haven Visiting Christian Science Nursing Service was discontinued. Christian Scientists are encouraged to engage Christian Science nurses in the same manner as they would a practitioner, by selecting from those listed in the *Journal*. Sunrise Haven staff is available 24 hours a day to provide additional names of qualified Christian Science nurses from which to choose. Calls for immediate Christian Science nursing needs are still met by a Christian Science nurse on staff.

In January 1997, The Mother Church’s Department of Care transferred the responsibility for Christian Science nursing facility accreditation to The Commission for Accreditation of Nursing Organizations/Facilities for Christian Scientists, Inc. Later in 1997, the number of licensed beds at Sunrise Haven was reduced to 18. This change was in response to a Mother Church directive to focus on nursing care only and to no longer offer custodial care or assisted living.

In 1998 and 1999, the Board of Sunrise Haven worked to gain a better sense of place and studied options for relocating Sunrise Haven to a location more central to the greater Seattle area.

### The 2000s

In February 2000, construction began on the new building at 24423 100th Avenue S.E. in Kent. Operations moved from Puyallup to two interim locations in Kent in April 2000.

On January 15, 2001, the new facility opened, and was licensed by the State of Washington as a nursing home with eight beds in eight rooms. By early 2002, after one year in operation, additions to the furnishings include: a sound system that provides individual guests 24-hour access to the Bible Lesson Sermon, *Science and Health*, classical music, articles, and other inspiring recorded material; additional furniture for patient rooms; and oil paintings of Washington scenes (gifts from artist, Eric Bashor).

In 2007, the Sunrise Haven Board of Trustees approved Sunrise Haven’s current Mission Statement:

In the spirit of the Good Samaritan and Christ-healing, Sunrise Haven provides Christian Science nursing care consistent with the *Church Manual* by-law to those relying solely on God for healing through the practice of Christian Science.

In the same year, The Mother Church issued a document “Christian Science Nurse Scope of Practice,” formerly known as “Role Statement for the Christian Science Nurse.” This document, which defines the parameters, or boundaries, for the ethical, moral, legal, and professional practice of Christian Science nursing, is part of Sunrise Haven’s Application for Admission.

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