FACULTY PRACTICE PARTNER HIGHLIGHT: CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE

Chicago Lighthouse is a leading provider of vision rehabilitation services in the Chicagoland area offering 35 unique programs and services that help clients optimize their remaining vision, meet developmental and educational milestones, find employment, and lead more independent lives. One of their programs is the Children’s Development Center (CDC). This is a Chicago Public School’s (CPS) Specialized Services Program comprised of a preschool with 19 participants and a therapeutic day program with 9 participants.

The CON Office of Faculty Practice developed a partnership with Chicago Lighthouse in 2009 to provide nursing support within their Children’s Development Center (CDC) and to provide urgent care consultation for the adult program. Most of the children in the therapeutic day program were born as micro-preemies (born at 24 to 25 weeks gestation), and they have multiple chronic medical issues along with varying degrees of visual impairment. Once the children turn 22, they graduate into the adult program, where they are taught life and job skills.

Catherine (Fern) Turner is the Faculty Practice Registered Nurse working at the Chicago Lighthouse. Fern has a variety of responsibilities, which include: caring for the children’s daily medical challenges, helping monitor and implement their Individual Education Programs (IEP), and helping the children’s families cope with their medical conditions. She also spends time educating each child’s family about their child’s condition, helps with making appointments for medical specialists, and at times accompanies them to appointments. Fern also addresses any emergent adult care situations such as headaches, injuries, and prolonged seizures. She also supports the adults by monitoring blood pressure and offering health-related educational programs.

“I’m your nurse: caring, counseling, and advocating for you and your child.”

- Catherine (Fern) Turner, RN

Chicago Lighthouse is also a location where nursing students and UIC pediatric residents volunteer and complete their clinical work. Fern is a preceptor to many of these students. She strives to create a well-rounded learning experience by giving the students exposure to as many of the Chicago Lighthouse programs as possible, as well as opportunities to shadow the various therapists on staff (See student highlight on page two). Along with being a preceptor, Fern works with the Lighthouse student’s teachers, paraprofessionals, the principal of the children’s program, staff of the adult living program, staff from the Chicago Public Schools, and the parents. Fern dedicates her time, efforts, and self to all aspects of her work at the Lighthouse with client and students by recognizing and going beyond routine care. As she tells the parents, “I’m your nurse: caring, counseling, and advocating for you and your child.”
CHICAGO LIGHTHOUSE FACTS

- In existence since 1906
- 35 unique programs and services serving over 85,000 each year
- Assists the blind or visually impaired, disabled and the Veteran community
- Clock manufacturing for United States Government and Rush University Medical Center
- Operates call centers for UIC Family physician scheduling and I-Pass
- CRIS Radio provides daily readings by volunteers of newspapers and periodicals

STUDENT HIGHLIGHT

By: Katrina Colclasure
(GEM Cohort 15, MSN, CNL Candidate Aug ‘16)

The Chicago Lighthouse is a public health clinical site for Rush nursing students. Throughout the term, students spend a majority of their time rotating between four areas of the Lighthouse: the Preschool, the Child Development Center, Adult Assisted Living Skills Program, and the Senior program. In each program, students help staff with daily tasks and also plan and lead health and education activities. The main purpose for the public health clinical is to assess the needs of the staff and clients within the different Lighthouse programs. After an area of need has been identified, the students, staff, and clients work collaboratively to create a solution. A few activities students have facilitated in the past are: weekly health education to the CDC staff, weekly workout classes for staff, and health education and dance class for the seniors program. Although clinical rotations are only 14 weeks long, these activities are created with the intention of future clinical groups to carry on and improve them. The Chicago Lighthouse has given students the skills to work alongside the community to prevent disease, promote health, and improve quality of life. The experience has also provided knowledge and appreciation of the daily life of blind and visually impaired that will help to guide future nursing care. As a nursing student in a community setting I was able to educate and serve people before they enter the acute care setting. The clients at the Lighthouse instilled in me to always look at a person’s abilities, not disabilities.

STUDENT SHADOWING OPPORTUNITIES

Our Faculty Practice clinicians and partner sites provide great RN & APN shadowing opportunities for current Rush nursing students. Please contact Virginia Deck at Virginia_deck@rush.edu if you are interested in shadowing at one of our partner sites.
CON FACULTY PRACTICE MISSION
To provide practice opportunities for the integration of education, research, and clinical practice to advance faculty and staff in their clinical field of expertise, and to provide measurable health benefits and solutions for the populations served.

CON FACULTY PRACTICE VISION
To be recognized for excellence in providing comprehensive and innovative evidence-based nursing services that address the healthcare needs of individuals, families, and communities.

CON FACULTY PRACTICE FACTS:
- 21 Chicagoland community partnerships
- 47,220 annual student clinical hours across all sites
- 7 ongoing DNP student projects in 2015-2016
- 5 ongoing pre-licensure student capstone projects in 2015-2016
- 3 exploratory and/or interventional research studies in 2015-2016
- 7-8 national posters representing Faculty Practice scholarly work presented on average each year

FACULTY PRACTICE PARTNERS
See map on the bottom left for our Partner locations.
- Advocate - Good Samaritan/Why Wait Clinic
- Andrew A Roth MD
- The Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind
- DuPage County Health Department
- Epilepsy Foundation of Northern Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska - our newest partner, welcome!
- Facing Forward to End Homelessness
- Flying Food Group Inc.
- Franciscan Alliance, St. Clare Health Clinic
- Heartland Health Services
- Jewish Children and Family Services
- Dr. Marla Kushner
- RUMC Laurence Armour Day School
- Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities
- Mercy Hospital- CPS Phillips & Dunbar High School Clinics
- Dr. Patricia Merwick & Associates
- Providence Englewood Charter School - our other newest partner, welcome!
- Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago
- Sue Gin Clinic at Oakley Square
- Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare
- Village of Park Forest
- Wesley Place

FACULTY PRACTICE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAM
Director of Faculty Practice
Angela Moss
PhDc, MSN, APN-BC, RN

Administrative Coordinator
Virginia Deck
MHAc, BA

Data Coordinator
Nancy Nichols
MLIS, RHIA