



It Takes A Village

Four years ago we began our quest for an L.P.N. program for the Island to help staff Windemere and the Hospital. Our dream was to provide an opportunity for our incredible staff in their educational pursuits.

We needed a program, location, funding and an instructor. We contacted the Nathan Mayhew Seminars. Dr. Lorna Andrade and Al Daniels shared our dream. They supported our initial efforts to find a program and funding for the program. We ran into a number of road blocks. We were turned down on our first grant application, and an off-island program backed out, putting us back at square one.

Three years ago it started to come together. Carolyn Blanks from the Massachusetts Extended Care Federation put us in touch with David Augustinho at the Cape & Islands Workforce Investment Board. David met with us and set up a meeting with Michael Corcoran at the Department of Workforce Development, who helped us with a grant application for an L.P.N. program on the Island. And, we had the support of SEIU.

In 2007, the State's Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development, Ms. Suzanne Bump, notified us of a grant award for \$100,000 for our L.P.N. program.

Next, we needed a program and found Kevin Farr, Superintendent and Patricia Gales, Director of the Practical Nursing Program at Upper Cape Cod Regional Tech, who made a commitment to locate a program on the Island. Our next crisis was the location. Peg Regan and the MV Regional High School provided classroom space for the program. But, we still needed an instructor. ***It was coming down to the wire!*** Deb Herlihy stepped up to the plate, shared our vision, and so committed to relocating from her Plymouth home to the Island in order to teach the ten month program.



Our L.P.N. program turned into an international program when we had an application from North Carolina. We had a diverse group of students, ranging in age from 21 to 56. We even had a mother-daughter duo.

We began with nine enthusiastic students who embarked on the ten month program, balancing their education, work and family lives. Windemere's C.N.A. staff covered the student's shifts. Windemere, the Hospital, Vineyard Pediatrics and VNA served as on-island clinical sites. Windemere's Marie Zadeh, Director of Nursing and Marie Araujo, Nursing Supervisor, both served as mentors, meeting regularly with the students. Again - balancing education, work and family. The students and instructor also went off-island for additional clinical training.

We get to the families... spouses, kids, parents – All were invaluablely supportive. ***Let's hear it for the families!***

As I said when I started, this Island program truly took a Village to make it happen.

Now, most important, our Graduates... It has been a long journey. You have studied hard and worked hard. Your dreams have come true. We are thrilled that soon we will be seeing you at our Nursing Home and the Hospital taking care of our Island residents.



Good luck and congratulations. And, as Tim Russert would say, GO GET 'EM!

Ken Chisholm, Administrator
Windemere Nursing and Rehabilitation Center

Photos by Ralph Sargent, Martha's Vineyard Times, June 27, 2008