
HIGH RIDGE HOUSE

Summer 2025

Fulfilling Our Mission

Have you ever read the official High Ridge House Mission Statement? Perhaps you have noticed one of the framed copies that we have hanging within view of all who visit. It states that our mission is, “Healing through loving Christian Science nursing care.”

Our skilled Christian Science nurses do indeed provide loving care. No doubt.

How important, though, that we not skip over that first word— “Healing.”

When anyone receives care from one of our Christian Science nurses, whether that care is provided in their home or they are admitted to our facility, it is always given in support of and with the expectation of healing.

We are grateful to share that we are regularly witnessing joyful examples of fulfilling our mission. We have made this progress as a community, a fulfillment of the promise we shared at our 2024 Annual Meeting— to embrace a sense of community, to come together as a community to meet the needs of our community.

Many of you have played an active part.

Perhaps you were someone who encouraged a branch church member to call us so they might receive care from a Christian Science nurse. Or maybe you contributed financially, especially through our Circle of Love program, to ensure that all who would benefit from Christian

Science nursing care receive that support, regardless of their ability to pay. Perhaps you volunteered here at High Ridge as a Reader on Wednesday or Sunday. Each of these steps has helped support the mission of High Ridge. Each has supported Christian Science healing.

Our experiences bring to mind a quote of Mrs. Eddy’s that can be found in “Miscellaneous Writings” on page 100.

“Pure humanity, friendship, home, the interchange of love, bring to earth a foretaste of heaven.”

One might say these past months have been heavenly. Thank you for being a part of it.



Joan Gaylord, Executive Director



An Inspired Testimony

I am so grateful for Christian Science.

Suddenly one day I became ill and immediately turned to prayer as taught in Christian Science and contacted a Christian Science practitioner. I was not able to function or eat and I was bedridden. My practitioner was able to contact a Christian Science nurse to come and care for me. After a couple of days, it was decided that I needed more care, and my practitioner and nurse helped me to a car and drove me to High Ridge House.

I don't remember much of the first few days, but I felt safe and cared for. Every time I opened my eyes a sweet Christian Science nurse was sitting beside my bed.



After a few weeks, I was eating everything in sight and drinking tons of liquids. And able to walk with a walker. Suddenly, I realized I was completely healed of whatever claim brought me to High Ridge House.

I immediately started looking for a way to get home, three hours away, but I was so grateful for the care here at High Ridge House. The rooms are kept very clean and have large windows. Oh, and the food is delish! I am also very grateful for the patience and love of all the Christian Science nurses who were never impressed by the claims of error.

But there is no place like home, as Dorothy says in the Wizard of Oz, and I am very happy to be heading home. I am so grateful for Christian Science and all the provisions for its students when we need help.

Sharyn Kerrigan

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High Ridge House is one of several Christian Science nursing facilities that have decided in recent years to withdraw from Medicare. Nine other Christian Science nursing facilities continue to be Medicare providers. Every Christian Science nursing facility is lovingly, watchfully, prayerfully serving the individual needs of their community according to their own demonstration, providing a range of options for Christian Scientists seeking care.

If you have questions or comments, feel free to email us: HealingThoughts@HighRidgeHouse.org

With love,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marilyn Bradshaw".

Board President

From Our Board

Dear Friends,

The core mission of High Ridge House is to support healing. Our Christian Science nurses are dedicated professionals with “a demonstrable knowledge of Christian Science practice” (Church Manual, p 49). While physically caring for patients, they are striving to behold the perfect man, to deny material sense testimony, and to recognize and destroy aggressive mental suggestions of discord and disease, thus defending the spiritual atmosphere of thought surrounding the patients. This metaphysical practice is essential to healing. It distinguishes Christian Science nursing from all other nursing.

Some years ago, the HRH Board became aware of staff concerns regarding the reporting requirements for Medicare. A careful investigation and analysis of these requirements and their impact on our healing mission was carried out. It included in-depth research into the writings of Mary Baker Eddy, accompanied by much thoughtful, prayerful consideration. The decision was made to withdraw from Medicare at a date to be determined. In January 2025, the Board decided that the time was right for this progressive step and HRH officially terminated its status as a Medicare provider.

We realized that our decision would close a source of funding for eligible patients, one that they had paid into. But we knew that our patients would be best served by removing all hindrances to pure spiritual healing. Financial assistance is available to replace Medicare for all who need it, including our own Benevolence Fund, supported by our Endowment Fund. Our long-held policy has not changed: no one seeking care will ever be turned away or asked to leave because of an inability to pay.

A full explanation of Medicare’s very physically-oriented reporting requirements and the implications for Christian Science healing was shared by HRH in an online presentation in 2020. The video of this presentation is available on our website. Here are just a few of the requirements that led to our decision:

Medicare requires detailed documentation of the patient’s physical condition both upon admission to the facility and with each adjustment to the care plan. Specific physical aspects of the patient’s condition must be discussed by CS nurses, agreed on, and recorded. The reports must describe the condition and any changes in relation to several categories: mobility, turning & positioning, personal care, and nourishment. A “Utilization Review Committee” must meet regularly to review the accuracy of the records, adjust wording as necessary, and confirm the need for the continuing care or oversight of a Journal-listed CS nurse.

This detailed reporting and focus of thought on specific aspects of a patient’s physical condition presents a stark challenge to maintaining the purely spiritual thought that supports healing. In addition, Christian Science facilities must use a special code when submitting Medicare claims: “Diagnosis Code Z53.1 - Procedure and treatment not carried out because of patient’s decision for reasons of belief and group pressure.” Every Medicare claim submitted is a tacit affirmation of a false stereotype and misrepresents the patient’s motives in choosing to rely on Christian Science treatment.

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High Ridge House
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www.HighRidgeHouse.org

Summer 2025

We hope that you will join us for our Summer Picnic and our Annual Meeting. Please mark your calendars now, and consult our website for further details and to RSVP.



- **Summer Picnic**
Saturday, June 28th, 1-4 p.m.
- **High Ridge House Annual Meeting**
Saturday, October 11th, 2-5 p.m.
Speaker: Shari Charlston,
Christian Science Nurse