

# Upper Valley Community Nursing Project

PO Box 1302, Lebanon, NH 03766

## Job Description for Faith Community Nurse

### **Faith Community Nurse- Preferred Qualifications:**

\*a minimum of a baccalaureate degree in nursing

\*an active license in the state of NH and or VT depending on the congregation

\*five (5) plus years experience in clinical nursing such as medical surgical nursing or home health care, long term care, community health/public health nursing. Maturity in the nursing profession is highly recommended as well as an appreciation for the need for professional flexibility.

\*community assessment skills

\*health counseling skills

\*suggested completion of a Faith Community Nursing certification program such as that developed by the International Parish Nurse Resource Center or a willingness to pursue such a course. These courses lend a depth of knowledge and an introduction to resources that will be helpful to the FCN.

**Roles:** Faith Community Nurses/Parish nurses function within the parameters of seven (7) major roles.

These are:

\***Health Educator** – focusing on a variety of educational activities for all ages that explore the relationship between values, attitudes, lifestyle, faith and health. These efforts may be in a group or individual format.

\***Personal Health Counselor** – assisting individuals to deal with health issues and health related problems. May include hospital, home, nursing home, etc. visits as well as care coordination.

\***Referral Agent** – providing congregational and community resources for managing illness, encouraging healing and fostering wellness.

**\*Health Advocate** – encouraging all systems (congregant, faith community, primary health resources) to find the best solution for managing illness, encouraging healing and wholeness - body, mind and spirit.

**\*Facilitator of Volunteers** – recruiting and coordinating resources within the faith community to serve in its various health ministries.

**\*Developer of Support Groups** – facilitating the development of support groups to meet member needs and those of the external community.

**\*Integrator of Faith and Health** – seeking, in all activities and contacts, to promote the understanding of the relationship between faith and health.

**Job Description:** The job description for the faith-based nurse, although common in functions, is fashioned within the parameters of the denomination or faith community it serves. This position is designed to provide support for the management of individual illness, guidance and access to resources for those who are in need of spiritual and physical healing as well as prevention of disease and promotion of health for individuals and the congregation. The major accountabilities and position activities are listed below.

**The Faith Community Nurse reports to:** the congregation leader and/or the Health Ministry committee.

**Accountable for the following roles (see above for description of each)**

A. Health Educator

B. Personal Health Counselor

C. Referral Agent

- D. Health Advocate
- E. Trainer of Volunteers
- F. Developer of Support Groups
- G. Integrator of Faith and Health

**Position Activities**

- A. Facilitates program and budget management
- B. Determines professional development and education activities for self and others  
(volunteers)
- C. Identifies measureable program outcomes
- D. Develops a meaningful way to document individual encounters as well as  
ongoing FCN activities.
- E. Submits reports as requested by congregation leader at least annually
- F. Provides a process for ongoing evaluation of program activities.

**Employment Conditions**

- A. Hours/week (minimum is 10)
- B. Recommended salary -not less than \$25/hour whenever possible
- C. Benefits (may include: holidays, vacation, health & liability insurances, retirement  
plan, continuing education programs, travel re-imbusement, license renewal, private cell phone)
- E. Designated private office space (could be shared so long as counseling space is available)
- F. Signed Confidentiality statement

4.

H. Completed NH/VT state police criminal background checks as well as a background check with the NH Bureau of Elderly and Adult Services

I. Active nursing license in the state of NH and or VT

J. 3 references

2/2/17 alh

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