

Nurses Serving our Neighbors

No one should journey alone.



Mission Statement 2024

We are happy to announce the refined NSON Mission Statement! Please feel free to share our mission near and far and direct anyone interested in learning more about us to our updated website at www.nsoncharlotte.org.

Nurses Serving Our Neighbors (NSON) is a non-profit faith-based ministry of licensed volunteer nurses and others who advocate, navigate, and educate while we accompany our neighbors in need within the Charlotte community. By our presence, we bring Christ's message of love and hope!

NSON provides holistic (body, mind and spirit) health promotion, education and guidance for neighbors in need within the community. Through our developed relationships, we receive referrals from community organizations such as homeless shelters, faith-based congregations, health care facilities, and other non-profit organizations.

We preserve the dignity of our neighbors by:

- **Advocating** for them with physicians, insurance companies, pharmacies, dental/vision facilities, and other organizations
- **Navigating** the healthcare system and available community resources
- **Educating** them to make better decisions about their future health by enhancing their understanding of underlying medical conditions
- **Accompanying** them on their journey, both physically and spiritually

Further, NSON nurtures our volunteers and community caretakers by providing spiritual rest and personal growth opportunities so they can serve in the capacity they were designed to serve by God! These opportunities include retreats, spiritual direction, community meetings, and development of their God-given talents and gifts.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

Message from Kathy Bartlett, Executive Director

Greetings! As we kick off the first quarter of 2024, I'd like to acknowledge the many activities of 2023. Last year brought clarification and focus to our mission. The opening page of this newsletter presents our revised Mission Statement, along with our new Vision Statement, "No one should journey alone." Further, we have adopted Galatians 6:2 "*Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.*" as our bible passage and a reminder to keep our eyes on Christ. We have refined staff position descriptions (and position titles to be announced in the near future) and added Robyn Magyar and Kristen Stein to the team.

Much progress has been made in streamlining processes and procedures, and expanding how we recruit, interview, onboard, orient, train, and communicate with our volunteers. We are also growing our efforts to build community, develop the website, expand our prayer advocacy efforts, and organize volunteer and community contact information. Processes and procedures are being developed and refined, as well as the creation of documentation to aid volunteers and staff in providing consistent medical, educational, and spiritual service, and to help and support our neighbors and the caretakers/nurses in the shelters.

One of our goals is to always encourage each other to deepen our spiritual lives so we provide opportunities to do just that - from retreats to Spiritual Direction, to Living Your Strengths and Seeking Purpose. We invite you to take advantage of these opportunities.

We are actively recruiting to add more licensed nurses to our volunteer base as we continue to grow. Our current volunteers are the best ambassadors for recruiting and referrals. We need you and depend on you to spread and fulfill the mission of NSON. Who do you know that should be a part of our mission? Let us know.

The future is bright because of you. Thank you!

Welcome New Volunteers

We have been blessed with answered prayers for volunteers! We have a handful of new volunteers joining us and we look forward to introducing all of them to you this year! **Daija** and **Julie** officially joined in Q4 2023, while **Angie, Sommer, Sandy, and Marilyn** are ready to "hit the ground running" in the coming weeks. Please pray for blessings upon our new volunteers, as well as our veterans, to serve our neighbors with compassion and grace. **Please continue to pray for licensed nurse volunteers and for God's will to be done in and through Nurses Serving Our Neighbors.**

Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon

What a beautiful turnout at our 2023 Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon! Over half of our volunteers joined our staff for a celebration of thanksgiving for God's blessing on the NSON ministry. Our lives are enriched through our service of our neighbors in need.



Developing our Team: Strengths and Seeking Purpose

NSON "gave back" to our staff and volunteers in 2023 through two personal development experiences - Living Your Strengths and Seeking Purpose.

Living Your Strengths is a 6-week small group experience to explore an individual's God-given talents. These talents are bestowed upon us at birth and guide how we think, feel, and behave. You have used them and developed them (knowingly and unknowingly) while gaining knowledge and experience that comes with life's journey. Our God-given talents can grow into STRENGTHS when tended purposefully. We THRIVE when we use our STRENGTHS, and we definitely want to support thriving volunteers! :)

Seeking Purpose is a single-day retreat with an extended and ongoing guided discernment period to explore the CHARISMS bestowed by God to build His Kingdom. Every person receives these supernatural gifts when baptized. As we deepen our relationship with God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit, our Charisms blossom. When we learn and understand our Charisms, we see where/how God is leading us to build His Kingdom, and we know when to say yes and when to say no.

God bestows talents and charisms. Simplistically, talents are HOW we do things and charisms are WHAT we do. NSON is committed to helping our volunteers learn about both of these gifts. Talent discovery is supported through Living Your Strengths, while Charisms are explored in Seeking Purpose. These are two different experiences and mutually independent but work amazingly well together. We look forward to our 2024 offerings of these two programs!

A Lenten Reflection

We are in the season of Lent - 40 days of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. In many ways these days are a preparation for the Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday. We need the grace of Lent to prepare ourselves for the most difficult days of watching Jesus suffer.

Over two thousand years ago, the apostles were with Jesus, at every turn, and with Him in most every challenge. Jesus was committed to stay the course of His Father's will and, although the apostles didn't have that same clarity of the complete plan, they loved him, trusted Him and pledged their fidelity to Him. Over the three years of journeying with Jesus, the apostles came to know that He was and is the Messiah. They learned that the way of the cross was difficult but necessary for the salvation of the world.

Each year we too are invited to that same journey with Jesus and the apostles as we enter this liturgical season of Lent. We are also invited to notice that we have so many things in common with the apostles. They were called - so are we. They were fearful, insecure, and fickle - so are we. They were full of love and commitment to God the Father and His Son, Jesus - so are we.

Two thousand years blur away as we too learn the ways of ministry and serving those in need. One way we serve is through Nurses Serving our Neighbors. We have experienced that the way of the cross and sacrifice is a very real and somber journey. We can't fix our neighbors' pain and suffering but we can show up to encourage, love, and pray for and with them. We know Jesus died for all of us ...the lonely, the homeless, the abandoned, the addict, the sick and the forgotten. All are included. He asks us to simply be His hands and feet. He reminds us to "Walk with them, care for them, acknowledge them by name and really see them."

This ministry of love can be daunting as He calls us to suffer and die for our neighbors. We do this by giving our time, talents, gifts, disappointments, sacrifices, inconveniences and our prayers. When we die to self we let Him live through us. When we decrease, He increases. Hope comes back into the world, our communities, our families and back into us. Loving in this way is what builds hope in souls and it is there and then that Resurrection happens and The Kingdom of God is built. Thank you for your YES, for getting out of God's way and for loving so deeply and fully. May you have a blessed Lent, Easter Season and on Pentecost may you be filled with His Holy Spirit to keep doing His work of Salvation.

Kathy Diener RN, Spiritual Director, Director of Spiritual Development

Out and About - Celebrating our Neighbors and Volunteers

Here is a glimpse of some of our interactions with our neighbors this past year. Please keep them in your hearts and prayers as we continue to advocate for their needs.



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