



## **Testimonial to the Grey Nuns of Montreal**

After the Grey Nuns arrived in Manitoba in 1844 and built the first hospital in western Canada in 1871, they opened the St. Boniface General Hospital School of Nursing in 1897 in response to the great need for skilled health care workers. This school trained and graduated 5,176 Registered Nurses over a span of 100 years until its closure in 1997.

Testimonials from nurses, who graduated from the school are numerous, citing how these courageous, caring and devoted women not only worked tirelessly to give the best care possible to all patients, but also to educate student nurses. Although the rules and regulations that were in place were rigid, the graduates were taught to be knowledgeable, compassionate and caring. The camaraderie and lifelong friendships that developed between the nurses exist to this day. Class reunions include the sharing of memories of their experiences on the nursing units and their lives in residence and in the classroom.

The St-Boniface community and others across Canada and the world have benefited from the knowledge and expertise of these skilled professionals. The influence of these graduates on the policies and practices of the Health Care System and on the profession of nursing is significant.

The St. Boniface Registered Nurses' Alumni Association is pleased to commemorate and honor the Grey Nuns and to thank them for influencing and shaping the lives of thousands of nurses who graduated from the St. Boniface General Hospital School of Nursing, and the Grey Nuns' legacy of stressing compassion and professionalism.

L'Association des anciennes et anciens de l'École des infirmières de Saint-Boniface a l'honneur de commémorer les Sœurs Grises; elles ont fort influencé la vie de milliers de gardes-malades à l'hôpital de Saint-Boniface.

To celebrate the Grey Nuns' achievement, the St. Boniface Registered Nurses' Alumni is planning the installation of exhibits within the hospital campus that will commemorate the 100 years of innovative nursing education and vision of care for Manitobans.

On behalf of the St. Boniface Registered Nurses' Alumni Association,

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