

*“Imagine a world without persons who know what nurses know; who believe as nurses believe; who do what nurses do; who have the effect that nurses have upon the health of individuals, families and nations; who enjoy the trust that nurses enjoy... Imagine a world without nurses.”*



This challenge was made by the nurse scholar renowned globally as an international leader in nursing education, regulation and credentialing: the late Dr. Margretta Madden Styles or “Gretta,” as she was known to her fellow nurses.

For those living in developing countries, conceiving a world without nurses takes no imagination at all. Today, many are in a death grip due to chronic shortages in the healthcare workforce. These shortages profoundly undermine global efforts to improve maternal health, decrease child mortality rates, and fight the devastating and disproportional advance of diseases such as HIV.

Nowhere are these conditions more evident than in Africa. According to the WHO World Health Report 2006, Sub-Saharan Africa has 24% of the global disease burden but only 3% of the

health care workforce worldwide and 1% of the global health expenditure. Where the need is most dire, the healthcare resources are nearly nonexistent.

Exacerbating the healthcare crisis is a problematic trend of the nursing “brain drain.” Due to higher pay and better workplace conditions, many skilled nurses are migrating from disease-burdened countries to more industrialized countries in the north. As a result, the loss of this essential human capital negatively affects healthcare availability and patient’s quality of care.

These conditions are crying for relief and The Gretta Foundation is answering that cry. Gretta’s daughter, Meg Styles, is proud to honor her mother’s memory through the creation of The Gretta Foundation. The Gretta Foundation is a 501 (c) (3) charitable corporation, whose mission is to provide in-country nursing scholarships to disadvantaged persons living in disease-burdened nations while bolstering desperately depleted healthcare workforces.

The Gretta Foundation’s nursing scholarship strategy is based on four important principles:

- ❖ Nursing scholarships are granted to persons most vulnerable and disadvantaged;
- ❖ Nursing education empowers persons by providing the tools to enter into an indispensable and remunerative profession;
- ❖ A nurse’s contribution to humanity through a career of care and cure is incalculable;
- ❖ By increasing the nursing workforce globally, there is greater hope to stem the relentless advance of diseases like HIV and improve patient care worldwide.

As professor and dean of nursing colleges throughout the US, and as a past president of the American Nurses Association (ANA), the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the International Council of Nurses (ICN), Gretta demonstrated a lifelong commitment to leadership in nursing. She defined nurse credentialing: critical work that recognizes and differentiates quality in all aspects of nursing practice. She spearheaded ICN's definitive work on nursing regulation. Gretta's most enduring legacy is her signature work in credentialing and its contribution to better patient outcomes globally.

Nursing scholarship recipients will enter into nursing programs in their country's system of education. Each scholarship will provide its recipient with an annual tuition, room and board, living allowance, books, school uniforms, shoes, and clinical supplies, such as stethoscopes and blood pressure readers. Once students have completed their nursing programs and have passed the exit exams administered by their nursing colleges, they are qualified to take their nation's registered nursing exam and become licensed to practice nursing. In repayment for the scholarship, graduating scholars will serve in their country's clinics and hospitals for a predetermined period of time commensurate with each year of academic assistance.

With nursing school education being cost prohibitive for many around the globe, The Gretta Foundation will provide young people in disease-burdened countries the opportunity to enter into this noble profession. For a sum modest by most economic standards, donations to this requisite work can have an exponential impact.

The Gretta Foundation is proud to contribute to the noble aspirations of future nurses while increasing healthcare capacity around the world. Nurses are instruments of change who empower their communities by caring for the ill and provide the only real hope for disease prevention and cure. A nurse's impact on the world is inestimable.

*To learn more about The Gretta Foundation and how you can support our mission, please contact:*

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