

About the Grateful Nurse Award

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Autumn, 1990. An old woman was lying on a metal bed in a room smelling of disinfectant and vomit. Because of a dying limb, her body was at risk of blood poisoning. She didn't understand exactly what was wrong with her. The doctors mentioned that the leg had to go, otherwise... Weakened, pained and confused, she felt that nothing good awaited her. Loneliness took over her soul, the greatest in her life so far. Then she saw young girl in a uniform. She was standing at the door, sort of too thin, too tall, but her look was kind, kind. As if the sun had risen... It came up to her and stroked her, on the face, on the shoulder. The old woman cried, like a little child.

Seven white coats flew into the room. The girl let go of the old woman's hand and jumped back in fright. The seven grim faces stopped by the old woman's side.

"So, are you going to have it cut off?" The vital question cut through the air.

"No, ..." whispered the old woman, and she wanted to say something more, to explain, but she didn't have time ... The cloaks were gone. It was decided. About life and death, about hopelessly dying alive, in cruel pain, on a metal bed, in a hospital.

In the corner of the room, a girl stood with a beating heart...

At the end of this true and touching story, a shocked girl stands in the corner of a hospital room. She is a young student, a prospective nurse. Despite her recent fifteenth birthday, she is keenly aware of the bitter reality of the hospital, totally unacceptable to her, which has cut into her soul like a sharp knife. It hurt. A teenage girl, full of emotion, longed to make magic and change a bleak world full of despair and hopelessness. The sad story of the autumn of 1990 did not end, on the contrary, it marked a beginning, a significant stimulus that caused an outburst of emotions that later turned into dreams and concrete actions. We remembered the story of the old woman in the hospital again after more than 30 years, at the ceremony marking the 10th anniversary of the foundation of the social services facility - Slniečny dom, n.o. (Sunny House) and the 16th anniversary of the Nursing Centre in Humenné, associated with the presentation of the exceptional award "The Award of the Grateful Nurse". The ceremony started with a warm greeting and a wonderful opening interpretation of the mentioned short story "A memory of an old woman in the hospital" by the popular Slovak actress Kristína Svarinská (from the audience successful series "Sestričky" / Nurses). The dream of a future nurse about better care for the elderly and infirm gradually became a reality in the following years of her life. Thirty years have passed, and in their own facilities - "Slniečny dom" (Sunny House) and the Nursing Centre, brave

Slovak nurses and one amazing manager with the heart of a nurse have firmly grasped the world of sad old women in their kind hands and care that knows no boundaries. For years they have been striving for more expertise, but also human understanding and compassion, more sunshine. Taking advantage of every possibility and opportunity, they never cease to develop the best standard of care for human health and dignity, the kind of service for seriously and long-term ill, frail seniors that can be imagined. A satisfied patient is the goal, and the nurses want to know their needs, desires, expectations intimately and to see their satisfied face clearly at the end of their efforts.

In 2014, the social services facility Slničný dom (Sunny House) was awarded the National Quality Award, in 2016, the nursing centre won the Via Bona Slovakia award, and the nurse who leads the complex was awarded the Forbes Person of the Year 2020 (Slovakia) award because of their work during the COVID-19 pandemic. It has not been easy at all and there is still a lot of work to be done. The development of integrated long-term care in the Slovak Republic has been negatively affected by the fact that the ministry covering social services in social services facility worked independently of the Ministry of Health. This practice has resulted in a developmental deformity - a lack of nursing care in social services and, at the same time, an underestimation of social care in health sector facilities. The nursing aspect, but also the social aspect, in the care of the infirm and polymorbid tends to be underestimated, and frail patients pay the price in social deprivation and health complications. The team of nurses who established the first nursing home in the Slovak Republic (inpatient health care facility, 2005) built a social services facility (falling under the social sector) after six years of practice (2011). The nurses at "Slničný dom" (Sunny House) strongly perceived the need for better health care for their clients. They were aware that the care of nurses and social workers was not sufficient for health protection. For these reasons, in 2018, they initiated the creation of legislation to introduce comprehensive nursing care in a social services facility by way of a standard and reimbursement - the so-called nursing lump sum [1].

Many of the right things and projects have been done, but without the help and support of great people, the ideas of better care would never have seen the light of day. It is thanks to the trust and support of precious personalities that proud nurses and action-oriented managers have firmly grasped the world of sad old men and women in their kind hands and care that knows no boundaries. Growing better, wiser, braver and stronger, they have been able to surpass their limits, ready to march on unwaveringly. Their hearts beat for all the helpless, frightened and sad people whose bitter world they long to change into heaven right here on earth, just as Florence Nightingale felt and preached nearly 200 years ago. The symbolism of the message of the most famous nurse of all time was captured at the ceremony by the solemn dressing of the nurses present in the uniform of Florence Nightingale. The Grateful Nurse Award was presented by the nurses of the Nursing Centre and "Slničný dom" (Sunny House) to a distinguished individual for helping to fulfill the nurses' vision of advancing care for the betterment of the lives of the seriously and long-term ill in the country.

Who and why did we honour with the grateful nurse award?

MUDr. Ján Gajdoš was previously State Secretary of the Ministry of Health and also served as Chairman of the Health Care Supervisory Authority. We awarded Mr. Gajdoš with the "Grateful Nurse Award" for his patronage of the establishment of the first nursing home in Slovakia, for his committed help in its difficult establishment and for his long-standing trust and support of nurse innovators. We are extremely grateful to this expert for never "closing the door" on us. Young, courageous, unknown to him nurses, we sought him out and with little soul asked for his help, and he never said NO! It is also thanks to him that we have been providing nursing home care to the most vulnerable for the past 16 years. Thanks to him, our dream has become a reality. We are very grateful to him for breaking the ice with us and opening the first nursing home in Slovakia in Humenné. But also in the following years he was always very helpful when we turned to him for advice.



Picture 1: On the picture is the awarded Ján Gajdoš and nurses and managers of the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

Mr. prof. MUDr. Jozef ŠUVADA, PhD., MPH, MBA, MSc. will start representing the Slovak Republic in the Executive Board of the World Health Organization (WHO) in May 2022. In 2017-2021, he worked at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic as an expert guarantor of the project on the preparation and implementation of standard diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. Mr prof. Šuvada was awarded the Grateful Nurse Award for the support and trust shown to the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House) in Humenné in the development of the first ministerial standards for comprehensive nursing patient management in the Slovak Republic in 2017-2019. It was under his leadership that the first 18 standards were developed and approved by the Minister, which were also based on the EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE of the Nursing Centre and social services facility – Slniečny dom (Sunny House) (Nursing Standards: SPDTP).



Picture 2: On the picture is the awarded Jozef Šuvada and nurses and managers of the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

Doc. Ing. Helena Čierna, PhD. is an auditor in the Slovak certification body. She received the Grateful Nurse Award for her help in the development of the quality management system and encouragement to participate in the National Quality Award, in which ZSS Slniečny dom, n.o. (social services facility – Sunny House) became the winner. She has not only been auditing for years, but has been extremely supportive. It was she who saw the potential in us and encouraged us to participate in the National Quality Award, which we won in 2014. No doubt that she is a lover of quality management and this has brought us together over the years. Her rigorous eye detects even the smallest flaws and this motivates us to improve every day. On the other hand, it is always a great pleasure for us when after each audit she literally “showers” us with praise and highlights all the positives of our hard work and appreciates the quality in the provision of social services and nursing.



Picture 3: On the picture is the awarded Helena Čierna and nurses and managers of the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

PhDr. Soňa Gaborčáková, State Secretary of the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, who was awarded the “Grateful Nurse Award” for her committed approach to the introduction of nursing care in social service facilities through the nursing lump sum. We have been cooperating with the State Secretary for a long period of time. She is no stranger to the practice of social service facilities and therefore supports nursing in long-term care. It was she who, in 2016-2017 as a Member of the National Council, supported our proposal to introduce payment for professional care by nurses in social services facilities. At the time, it was a revolutionary change. Today, 10 000 beds in Slovakia benefit from the nursing lump sum.



Picture 4: On the picture is the awarded Soňa Gaborčáková and nurses and managers of the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

Another awarded person is the Chairman of the Prešov Self-Governing Region PaedDr. Milan Majerský, PhD., who was awarded the “Grateful Nurse Award” for the completion of the Nursing Centre on Lipová Street with a garden terrace, thus supporting nurses in their desire to create a safe opportunity for severely ill and dependent clients to stay in a barrier-free exterior full of greenery. We had a big dream at the Nursing Centre to offer our nursing home patients nature in the palm of their hands. And since the helpless, the sick, the immobile do not have the opportunity to just go to the park, to the forest to breathe fresh air and enjoy the beauty of nature, beauty and nature “came to them”. Our dream came true and the Blooming Terrace on Lipová Street became a reality thanks to the Prešov Region and the Chairman. Also thanks to this help, our helpless and sick patients can enjoy nice moments on our Blooming Terrace.



Picture 5: On the picture is the awarded Milan Majerský and nurses and managers of the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

PhDr. Mária Lévyová is an exceptional lady who has been fighting for patients’ rights for years as the President of the Association for the Protection of Patients’ Rights of the Slovak Republic. We have honoured her for her insistent support of nursing homes, for inviting her to contribute to the development of the Strategy for Long-Term Social and Health Care in the Slovak Republic and for her committed support of our Senior Boxes project. Maria Lévyová continuously supports us and our ideas on how to create a better world for the disabled persons. Three years ago she invited us to cooperate in the creation of a very important document - the Strategy of Long-term Social and Health Care in the Slovak Republic. The creation of the Strategy was preceded by a series of joint conferences across the Slovak Republic.



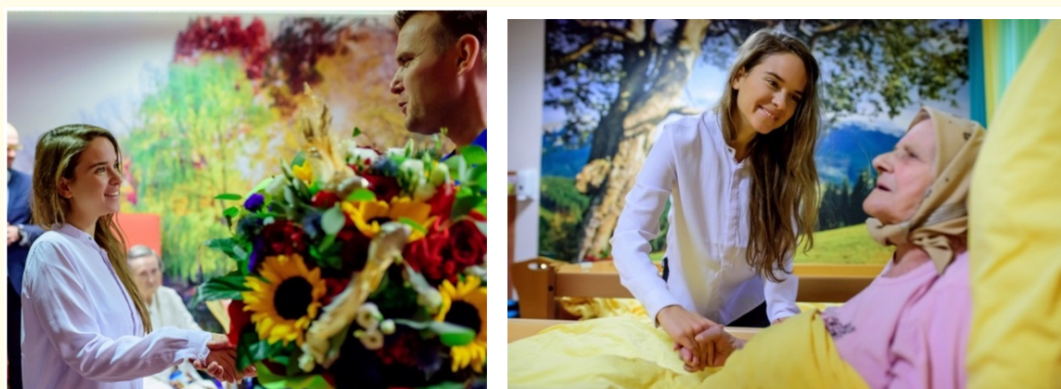
Picture 6: On the picture is the awarded Mária Lévyová and nurses and managers of the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

Docent Tatiana Hrindová, PhD is a nurse of the Prešov Self-Governing Region, a university teacher, and in the past she worked as a Ministerial Nurse, Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (2016 - 2017). In addition to her help and support, in the past Tatiana Hrindová has shown great trust in us and entrusted her beloved mother, whom we have lovingly cared for at Slniečny dom (Sunny House) for several years, into “our hands”. Thanks to this personal experience, she became convinced that our only goal is already now to give the sick and helpless seniors heaven on earth and that we have been striving every day for years to make sure that no one suffers, even when illness strikes in full force. Tatiana Hrindova was recognised for her intensive cooperation with the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House) in Humenné and for her committed approach in introducing nursing care to social service facilities by way of the nursing lump sum.



Picture 7: On the picture is the awarded Tatiana Hrindová and nurses and managers of the Nursing Centre and Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

We also awarded the “Grateful Nurse Award” to Kristína Svarinská for her human support and committed help in promoting the Malina Portal project (www.portalmalina.sk) since its inception. Kristína Svarinská is a well-known Slovak actress, an exceptional person with a huge heart and empathy. We thank Kristínka for everything she does for Portal Malina and for us. She has selflessly “borrowed” her beautiful face, despite her workload, to the portal, which helps to prevent situations of helplessness, deterioration of the condition due to late provision of the necessary service. She has thus imaginatively lent a hand to all the sick and helpless, as well as to their loved ones who urgently need the help that the Malina Portal offers them.



Picture 8: On the picture is the awarded Kristína Svarinská when she visited Slniečny dom (Sunny House).

Mgr. Anna Ghannamová is the Chairwoman of the Association of Social Service Providers in the Slovak Republic. We awarded Anna Ghannamová with the Grateful Nurse Award for her personal commitment in the field of nursing and social services and her proposal to establish a new section of nursing at the Association of Social Service Providers. The Chairwoman is one of the aforementioned warriors who don't just give up. She is no stranger to the practice of social services, as she runs one of them. She knows the problems that undermine the smooth running of these facilities. She also deserves our thanks for all that she does for nursing and social services, for her commitment and dedication to the cause. We hope that our cooperation will continue for many days to come and that together we will be able to fulfil our common goals and resolutions.



Picture 9: On the picture is the awarded Anna Ghannamová.



Photo 1



Photo 2



Photo 3



Photo 4



Photo 5



Photo 6



Photo 7

Bibliography

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