# Thanks from beneficiaries of Fellowship donations

**In a recent press release, issued by Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, our president, Gillian Prager, was able to announce how nursing professionals from across the UK, who find themselves in hardship, are set to benefit from generous gifts from the Nightingale Fellowship.**

**She said: 'We are delighted that, as a charity, we are able to extend our benevolence to all nurses in the United Kingdom, through the Cavell Nurses' Trust and the Guild of Nurses' charitable fund. It is important that we look outwards to help those in need, just as Florence Nightingale did herself in a life of selfless dedication to others.'**

**Members who attended last year's AGM, and *Journal* readers, will be aware that the Fellowship, which supports the interests of its two-and-a-half thousand Nightingale nurse members worldwide, announced its decision to make a £1m donation, split evenly between the two nursing charities, at its AGM on May 12, the birthday of Florence Nightingale**

**The Guild of Nurses**

Brenda Griffiths, Guild of Nurses' Foundation Master and Chair of the Board Trustees of the Company of Nurses Charitable Trust, reacted to the news by saying that 'the Guild of Nurses is enormously grateful to the Nightingale Fellowship for their very generous donation and for the trust it has placed in us. This funding will enable the Guild to build on the work of our profession's rich history and offer benevolent support to nurses when and where it is needed through The Company of Nurses Charitable Trust, our associated charity.

'As a new charity we look forward to working alongside other charitable bodies in our efforts to support those members of the nursing profession experiencing hardship, and your generosity will allow us to undertake this much more quickly and effectively than we had anticipated'.

She went on to say that 'the Company of Nurses Charitable Trust offers a secure repository for the many alumni associations and leagues of nurses to protect their assets, ensuring that any charitable funds are used for their original purpose. They can remain safe for nurses in perpetuity within the security of the centuries old City of London Livery movement.

'By placing your trust in us in this way, you are also helping our parent Guild to achieve its aspiration of becoming a modern Livery Company providing fellowship for nurses, maintaining professional standards, and supporting education and professional development. We have a growing number of Nightingales amongst our membership and you can be assured of a warm welcome.'

**The Cavell Nurses' Trust**

The Cavell Nurses' Trust, the charity that supports nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants when they are suffering personal or financial hardship, also benefits from the Nightingale Fellowship's donation.

Simon Knighton, Chairman of the Trust, responded to the news, saying: 'We are incredibly grateful to the Nightingale Fellowship for their donation. We've seen the number of calls for help from nursing professionals double in the space of just three years, so this vital funding will go towards helping the increase in this demand for support, and transforming the lives of nurses suffering hardship, ensuring that many

of them can stay in or return to work. We know,' he continued, 'that the support the Trust provides to nurses, midwives and healthcare assistants who are suffering — often due to illness, disability, older age or domestic abuse — is crucial. Recently, we asked more than 1,100 nurses how prepared they were for an unexpected financial crisis. Shockingly, 77% of nursing professionals said they were not prepared, with 50% saying they have just £500 or less to survive on in a financial emergency.

'These findings, coupled with the fact that nursing professionals are twice as likely as the general public to suffer financial hardship, signal to us that we need to quickly secure a long-lasting safety net for UK nurses.

'So we welcome the Fellowship's decision to make their donation, helping us to provide simple and essential support: from money to repair a broken cooker or boiler, to vital, life-changing aid like helping a family flee their home due to domestic abuse. This will make a real difference to those people who care for us throughout our lives'.

**Academic award to the Nightingale Academy at Guy's and St Thomas'**

Last year, the Nightingale Fellowship also supported the establishment of The Nightingale Academy at Guy's and St Thomas' with an academic award of £250,000 to encourage the programme initiated by the chief nurse, Dame Eileen Sills.

Dame Eileen greeted the news by saying: 'I am absolutely delighted to receive this financial grant from the Nightingale Fellowship to sustain the future of our professional award for our outstanding nurses and midwives here at the trust.

'Our Nightingale Nurse/Midwife award, launched in 2017, saw the first recipients receive their awards on Nurses' Day, May 2018.

'This grant will be used to enrol applicants at King's College London for the academic element of the award, and to ensure the future of the award at the trust for many years to come.'

**Grant to St Christopher's Hospice**

A further grant of £100,000 was given to St Christopher's Hospice for its palliative care courses, in recognition of the centenary of the birth of Dame Cicely Saunders, founder of the modern hospice movement. Dame Cicely was a Nightingale nurse before studying medicine.

**Celebrating looking outwards for those in need: Centre: Gillian Prager, Fellowship president, with, l-r: Simon Knighton, Brenda Griffiths, Dame Eileen Sills and Fiona Hibberts, The Nightingale Academy**