

# *Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame*



**Dr. Nancy Masterson**  
*School Nurse, 2000-2015*

Dr. Nancy Masterson was an outstanding school nurse who devoted 15 years to Watchung Hills. Between December 2000 and December 2015, Dr. Masterson created numerous positive changes to the Health Services Department and fostered relationships between the school and outside health organizations. After her tenure at Watchung Hills, Dr. Masterson continued to serve and impact her local community and the world.

While at Watchung Hills, Dr. Masterson was responsible for the management of the health care services provided to thousands of students and hundreds of faculty and staff by the nurses and athletic trainers. In addition to her day-to-day obligations at the high school, Dr. Masterson also established a Medical Emergency Response Team, in which she initiated and facilitated defibrillator drills several times a year to increase the skills of the team and she created a program, "The Health Office as an Extension of the Classroom" to improve student knowledge of health issues.

Dr. Masterson's positive influence in the health world went beyond Watchung Hills. She helped the local community by organizing and conducting biannual nursing articulation meetings for the district and county public, private, vocational, and middle school nurses. She also received permission for the school's health office to periodically be a clinical site for undergraduate and graduate nursing students from three local universities (Caldwell, Felician, and Kean) while they were studying the courses "School Nursing" and "Community Health Nursing." For college students studying "Health Education," Dr. Masterson arranged for these students to observe the Watchung Hills Health Educators in the classroom. In 2015, the Somerset County School Nurses' Association honored Dr. Masterson with the well-deserved "School Nurses That Make a Difference" Award.

After leaving Watchung Hills, Dr. Masterson taught nursing courses at Bloomfield College and Monmouth University. In addition, she served on the Board of Directors and was President of Columbia University Teachers College Nursing Education Alumni Association, volunteered to work with medical teams doing clinics in the slums of Nairobi, Kenya, and near Rishikesh, India, and was the co-principal investigator with a team of nurses from Pace and Columbia Universities researching stroke victims and their caretakers in Ghana. Dr. Masterson then worked for Chamberlain University's Global Health Education Program as an Associate Professor and Clinical Supervisor for nursing students doing clinical immersions for marginalized populations in various countries, which included the Leper Colonies in Hyderabad and Delhi, India, and rural communities in India, Brazil, and Haiti. It was in Haiti that Dr. Masterson was inspired to start a 501 C3 charity to support, encourage, inspire, and give hope to marginalized children and families in Haiti and around the world. As president of this charitable organization, her work continues as the nomination is presented.