

A portrait of Jennifer Kennedy, a woman with short brown hair, wearing glasses and a black blazer over a patterned top. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred indoor setting.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S HOSPICE: YEAR OF THE NURSE

**NHPCO's Jennifer Kennedy Honored
as a Pioneering Nurse**

By Jon Radulovic

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**NHPCO congratulates Jennifer on
this significant honor as a Pioneering
Nurse of 2020 and thanks her for her
commitment, passion, and service.**

To mark both the International Year of the Nurse and Midwife and Florence Nightingale's 200th birthday, St. Christopher's Hospice in London has been celebrating palliative nursing throughout 2020. As they share on their website, "Nursing in palliative and end of life care has a rich history and remains a central element of its delivery. We want to shine a light on its contribution past and present... and consider its future shape so that it remains pertinent, visible and impactful."

A year of celebratory events had been planned for 2020 but like the rest of the world, COVID-19 changed these plans and the team at St. Christopher's created a virtual resource offering webinars and a growing article collection, available for all to enjoy at www.stchristophers.org.uk/yearofthenurse/.



St. Christopher's Hospice is based in south London, England, and was established in 1967 by Dame Cicely Saunders, whose work is considered the basis of modern hospice philosophy.

Honoring 2020 Pioneering Nurses

Another priority among the leadership at St. Christopher's during this important year honoring the nurse was to identify and celebrate the key characteristics in the work of Florence Nightingale and Dame Cicely Saunders. Characteristics that are found in contemporary pioneering nurses working in hospice and palliative care.

The charge was to honor nurses making a profound difference to people's lives anywhere in the world, nurses motivated by creativity and compassion,

pushing for change in nursing today, leading the way, and provoking change for the better.

A call went out across the international community seeking nominations of nursing professionals who reflect eight characteristics inspired by the life and work of Florence Nightingale and of Dame Cicely Saunders.

Eight Characteristics of a Pioneering Nurse in 2020

- A person driven by the spirit of compassion
- A campaigner for change
- A super connector
- A public health champion
- An innate visionary leader
- A protagonist for excellence in care
- A creative and critical thinker
- An ambassador for the nursing profession

From the many nominations that came from across the globe, St. Christopher's Hospice has selected 30 nurses from 17 countries covering a wide range of special focus areas. They span practice, education, research, and policy.

NHPCO is proud to share that Jennifer Kennedy, EdD, MA, BSN, RN, CHC, Senior Director, Quality and Regulatory, has been honored as one of the 2020 Pioneering Nurses. [See St. Christopher's tribute to Jennifer online.](#)

Read some of the latest articles from St. Christopher's celebrating the [International Year of the Nurse](#):

- [Reflections from the Front Line](#)
- [The shift in focus created by Covid-19](#)
- [Is dementia homeless?](#)
- ['The Nurse I Will Never Forget'](#)

These are some of the accomplishments that St. Christopher's notes in honoring Jennifer as a Pioneering Nurse.

Jennifer Kennedy has dedicated her nursing career to hospice for the last 20 years. Her first contact in hospice was in 1989 at Children's Hospice in Washington D.C working with pediatric patients at the end of life. Now, as Senior Director of Quality and Regulatory at NHPCO, she guides hospice providers' patient care in the U.S. on a daily basis through her engagement with the membership and the provider community.

She serves as a highly regarded faculty for many NHPCO professional development offerings including conferences, webinars, and podcasts. She is well recognized as a speaker at national and state conferences. Jennifer also serves as adjunct faculty for the University of Indianapolis, Graduate Health Care Management, Interprofessional Health & Aging Studies College of Health Sciences.

Jennifer proudly serves as a representative for hospice on two National Quality Forum committees, the National Coalition for Hospice and Palliative Care, and The Joint Commission Home Care Accreditation Advisory Council. She interacts with federal government officials to represent and advocate for hospice providers in the U.S. and serves

as a volunteer for HOSA, an organization supporting future healthcare professionals.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, she serves as the lead for the NHPCO COVID-19 team and has spearheaded creation of many free resources for hospice and palliative care providers and the public. As the NHPCO lead for emergency preparedness, she interfaces with federal government entities on behalf of hospice and palliative care providers in the U.S. Jennifer volunteers for her county based Medical Reserve Corps and presents community-based education related to serious illness and end of life, most recently at John Hopkins University.

In her work on the development and implementation of NHPCO's Quality Connections, a national hospice and palliative care quality of care program, her influence and commitment to quality has a national impact. She leads the ongoing development of Standards of Practice for Hospice Care and creates quality of care resources and educational offerings for the provider community. Two of NHPCO's most popular resources sold in Marketplace were created by Jennifer, Hospice Discharge, Revocation, and Change of Hospice and Certification & Recertification of Hospice Terminal Illness.

Jennifer has dedicated 34 years of her life to nursing, 20 of them to hospice and palliative care. NHPCO congratulates Jennifer on this significant honor as a Pioneering Nurse of 2020 and thanks her for her commitment, passion, and service.

Jon Radulovic, MA, has been a member of the NHPCO Communications Team since 2003.

In the months ahead, St. Christopher's will be introducing these honorees, and in the process share the experience, knowledge, and wisdom of these contemporary pioneering nurses. Additionally, as part of this program, St. Christopher's is developing a contemporary model of palliative nursing. A model that will consider the historical and new characteristics that shape the role and model of palliative nursing for the future, so that nurses can:

- Reclaim a center stage position,
- Articulate all that they offer,
- Hone their skills and processes,
- Request the help they need to achieve greatest impact,
- Be proud of their role and profession and develop it accordingly.