

## **2015 IFNA Award Nomination: Distinguished Partner in Health Care Award**

### **Nomination of Glen and Becky Taylor – The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society (<http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/>)**

Glen and Becky Taylor of Taylor Corporation, Mankato, Minnesota, USA, are nominated for the 2015 IFNA Distinguished Partner in Health Care Award for their sustained investment and excellence in advancing family nursing and family focused health care.

Family nursing has a rich and storied history that began approximately four decades ago through the pioneering efforts of early family nursing clinicians, researchers, and educators. While there has been steady incremental growth in the development of family nursing science in many countries, the generous support of Glen and Becky Taylor has provided unprecedented opportunities for family nursing to grow exponentially and internationally.

Glen Taylor, an astute businessman and philanthropist, has grown the Taylor Corporation over 40 years from a single business to a large company with ownership in sports teams, banks, egg production, newspapers, and hearing devices (Brown, 2014). He has donated millions of dollars to his alma mater, Minnesota State University. In 2007, he married a nurse, Becky Mulvihill. In 2007, he also offered a special endowed fund to Minnesota State University, Mankato, for the development of new knowledge and innovation. The winner of the internal university-wide competition for this \$7 million endowment was the School of Nursing based on a brilliant application developed by faculty members, Dr. Sandra Eggenberger, and Dr. Sonja Meiers. The emphasis of their application was on advancement of *nursing practice* for health and healing of families and society. Becky Taylor's commitment to enhancing nursing and health care influenced the application that was chosen with the Taylors recognizing that nurses are more important now than ever to families' well being. In the history of family nursing, an endowed fund of this magnitude is unprecedented and the emphasis on *nursing practice with families* is significant.

In 2008, the School of Nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato, launched The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society (<http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/about.html>) with Dr. Sandra Eggenberger as the Director and an Advisory Council which included Drs. Janice M. Bell, Kit Chesla, Sharon Denham, Naomi Ervin, Kathleen Knafl, and Patricia Tomlinson (Eggenberger, 2010). The mission of The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society is to focus on innovative *nursing practice* knowledge that influences the health and healing of families and society at local, state, national and international levels, and to provide leadership and expertise in family and society health related issues.

Over the past 5 years, The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society has been a major force for good in the international growth of family nursing and in the development of *family nursing practice* knowledge. Selected examples of the ways that The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute has contributed to this growth are highlighted below:

- Sustained financial support enabled the launch of the International Family Nursing Association in 2009 at the 9<sup>th</sup> International Family Nursing Conference.

The Glen Taylor Nursing Institute also served as the major sponsor of the 11<sup>th</sup> International Family Nursing Conference held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2013: <http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/ifna.html>.

- The development of the Becky Taylor Doctoral Fellowships in Nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato have provided important scholarship assistance to 7 doctoral nursing students and faculty who are examining health and healing of families and society:  
<http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/fellowships.html>.
- Financial support for faculty development has resulted in curriculum innovation in family nursing at all levels of baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral nursing education at Minnesota State University, Mankato and in international leadership in simulation of *family nursing practice*:  
[http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/audio\\_visual\\_media.html](http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/audio_visual_media.html). New programs of faculty research in health and healing of family and society have been initiated:  
<http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/research/>. A newly published family nursing textbook has been co-edited and co-authored by faculty members:  
[http://www.amazon.com/Family-Focused-Nursing-Care-Sharon-Denham/dp/0803629109/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1427904456&sr=8-1&keywords=Sharon+Denham](http://www.amazon.com/Family-Focused-Nursing-Care-Sharon-Denham/dp/0803629109/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1427904456&sr=8-1&keywords=Sharon+Denham). A Textbook Instructor Manual Companion has also been developed:  
<http://ahn.mnsu.edu/nursing/institute/manualcompanion.html>.
- Financial support for knowledge translation (KT) of *family nursing theory to practice settings* has helped grow an international collaboration of family nursing researchers with local feasibility KT research conducted in neighboring hospitals:  
<http://janicembell.com/2015/02/knowledge-translation-in-family-nursing-selected-bibliography/>.

Never before has the field of family nursing been offered the sustained financial investment and the sincere personal interest and cheerleading that has been shown by Glen and Becky Taylor. Their generous and heartfelt gifts to grow our family nursing community and advance the scholarship of *family nursing practice* must be recognized and celebrated.

### References

Brown, C. (2014, June 29). From farm boy to billionaire, Glen Taylor steers his own course. *Star Tribune*. Retrieved from  
<http://www.startribune.com/politics/statelocal/265057261.html?page=4&c=y>

Eggenberger, S. (2010). Glen Taylor Nursing Institute for Family and Society: Advancing family nursing. *Journal of Family Nursing*, 16(2), 234-238. doi: 10.1177/1074840710368635