

Contact: Gary Woonteiler or Beth Spray, 781-891-1232, info@woonteilerink.com

For Immediate Release

**NURSES NATIONWIDE ATTEND CONFERENCE ON IMPROVING CARE
FOR PATIENTS WITH ADVANCED MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS**

—THE BOSTON HOME AND NATIONAL MS SOCIETY SPONSOR SYMPOSIUM—

Dorchester, Mass.— Nurses from across the United States recently attended a three-day conference aimed at optimizing nursing care for patients with advanced Multiple Sclerosis (MS). The conference, held at The Boston Home (TBH) in Dorchester, Mass., was offered by The Boston Home Institute of TBH, and the National Multiple Sclerosis Society (NMSS). TBH is a specialized residence for adults with physical disabilities, primarily MS and related neurological diseases.

Nurses from various clinical settings received training to help them provide high-quality, specialized services and improve the continuum of care for MS patients. The training faculty consists of staff from The Boston Home and its consultants.

“Nurses will utilize their new skills to complete a project when they return to their organizations,” according to Cindy Walsh, RN, Director of Clinical Services at TBH and course director. “We were gratified by the enthusiastic response to the course by the nurses, who look forward to utilizing their new skills in their various settings.”

The conference, the first of its kind, ties in with recent state authorization for a commission to study the needs of physically disabled adults who require long-term care and who often don’t receive the desired level of specialized services.

The Boston Home, which is recognized by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society as “the standard of care for adults with MS and other neurological diseases,” will share its pioneer efforts in the use of assistive technology, wellness programs, and other innovative services that promote the independence of its residents.

The symposium was designed to help participants to:

- Demonstrate nursing techniques and best practices for management of elimination problems, nutrition and hydration, pain, and cognitive and emotional dysfunction, and for primary health care and palliative care.
- Describe appropriate application of technology to seating, environmental controls, communication, and computer access.
- Describe how rehabilitation strategies can be of value to the severely disabled person with MS.
- Demonstrate strategies and techniques to address behavioral and psychiatric needs of this population.
- Describe the psycho-social and physical environment of a long-term care residential community that meets the long-term care needs of people with MS.

The symposium was funded by the John Dystel Fund of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

The nurses attending the conference received up to 20.1 contact hours provided by BioSymposia, Inc., an accrediting organization.

According to Marva Serotkin, President and CEO of The Boston Home, “This conference is an important initiative of our Boston Home Institute, which promotes education, research, and advocacy. We are excited to share our knowledge of best practices as part of our continuing efforts to advocate for this underserved population of adults.”

Founded in 1881, The Boston Home in Dorchester is a not-for-profit, specialized care residence for adults with advanced multiple sclerosis and other progressive neurological diseases. Celebrating its 125th year, The Boston Home is recognized as “the standard for care of adults with MS” by the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. The Boston Home is the only facility of its kind in New England and one of only a few in the United States. The Boston Home Institute advances standards for care through research and education. The Boston Home Outreach Services provide therapeutic, wellness, and social programs for outpatients. For more information, visit www.thebostonhome.org.

For more information on the National MS Society, visit www.nationalmssociety.org.

###