



## *National Association of School Nurses*

**For Immediate Release**

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### **School Nursing Profession to Celebrate 100 Years of Children Care**

*--Year-long celebration to kick off October 1<sup>st</sup> in New York City--*

(Castle Rock, CO.) On Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2002, at 10:30 a.m., the National Association of School Nursing (NASN) will celebrate 100 years of school nursing in America with a kick-off event at the site where it all started. The media event will be held at 265 Henry Street at the historic Henry Street Settlement in New York City. The Henry Street Settlement was founded in 1893 by Lillian Wald, who's idea to place a public health nurse in the public school system launched the school nursing practice.

It was on that day, October 1, 1902, that school nursing emerged, following the "experimental" placement of a public health nurse, in a New York City school. The extraordinary work of America's first school nurse, Lina Rogers Struthers, R.N., in reducing school absenteeism due to communicable diseases, quickly led to the employment of school nurses in New York City and across the country. As more and more nurses were hired, the role of the school nurse expanded to include an emphasis on student wellness, disease prevention and health education, not only for the student, but for family members and the community as well.

According to a March 2000 survey conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there are nearly 58,000 RN's now employed as school nurses, responsible for caring for our nation's 52 million students.

The kick-off celebration will begin with welcoming remarks from NASN president Linda C. Wolfe, followed by a presentation on the history of school nursing in America. Comments will also be made by invited government, school and healthcare leaders. Students will also share experiences as to how school nursing has impacted their lives. The ceremony will conclude with the presentation of a \$5,000 nursing scholarship and commemorative plaques to the City of New York and Henry Street Settlement. This event will kick-off a year long celebration of the school nursing practice across the entire nation.

"The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of school nursing is truly an important milestone in the history of American public health" said Wolfe. "Each day, children all across America come to school to learn, but can only do so if healthy." Added Wolfe, "We have come such a long way since 1902 when Lina Rogers Struthers first began working with school children. That 'experiment' has proven to be the hallmark of the American public school system, not only for the past 100 years but for the next 100 as well."

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For more information, visit the NASN website at [www.nasn.org](http://www.nasn.org) to find out how states and schools across the nation will be celebrating this landmark year.

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