



# HAITIAN AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION OF HUDSON VALLEY, NEW YORK, INC.

May 16, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of HANA of Hudson Valley, New York, Inc., I want to thank everyone for joining us for this inaugural celebration of the "International Year of the Nurse, and the Midwife."

At the beginning of 2020, the World Health Organization, in collaboration with the "Nursing Now" campaign, and the International Council of Nurses (ICN), published the "State of the World's Nursing and Midwifery Reports." The latter focuses on the progress and future challenges that midwives will face to deliver adequate coverage and quality midwifery services care. The former highlights how the nursing workforce will help provide Universal Healthcare Coverage (UHC) and achieve the Sustainable Developmental Goals.

2020 also marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Florence Nightingale. To celebrate these milestones, the World Health Organization declared 2020 the "International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife."

Nurses are the foundation of healthcare. They are essential workers who assess, advocate, provide patient care, support the healthcare team, and work together to save lives.

Surely we all remember the primary reason we became nurses or midwives. Perhaps some of us were inspired by a nurse who took care of a sick relative or a midwife who delivered a baby safely. Whatever the reason, HANA of Hudson Valley, New York, Inc., thank you for answering the call to serve. We also recognize and applaud the resilience and the heroic efforts you continue to show during this pandemic.

As we celebrate the "International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife," let us remember and honor the nurses, the healthcare workers, and the patients who succumbed to COVID-19.

Happy Nurses Week and Happy International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife 2020.

Regards,

*Marlyn Lestage Laforest*

Marlyn Lestage-Laforest CNM-NP, MA, MPH, RN  
President of HANA of Hudson Valley, New York, Inc.

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*"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success"—Henry Ford*