

MaryLee Pakieser, MSN, RN, FNP-BC: A Champion of Correctional Health and Advocate for Vulnerable Populations

Traverse City Nurse Practitioner Celebrates Over Five Decades of Dedicated Service in Nursing and Healthcare Advocacy



New York City, New York Jun 9, 2025 ([Issuewire.com](https://www.Issuewire.com)) - Traverse City, Michigan – MaryLee Pakieser, MSN, RN, FNP-BC, a seasoned Registered Nurse and Board-Certified Family Nurse Practitioner, has devoted more than five decades to advancing clinical nursing practice across a wide

array of healthcare settings. She is currently working with Advanced Correctional Healthcare, Inc. (ACH) in county jails in Michigan. "Correctional health is one of the most interesting positions I have ever been involved in," shares MaryLee. "I am never bored. I am always researching new diagnoses and new treatments. From a clinical perspective, it is a very fascinating and challenging position. On a human level, it can be very disheartening to see aspects of our society in which there are circles of poverty, abuse, drug addiction, and psychiatric conditions that are not adequately treated or improved."

MaryLee began her nursing journey at St. Francis School of Nursing, where she earned her Nursing Diploma in 1972. Her enthusiasm for more knowledge led her to further her education, culminating in a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Ferris State University in 1994. She continued to excel in her field by earning a Master of Science in Nursing at Vanderbilt University in 1995, solidifying her expertise and leadership within the nursing profession.

Throughout her career, MaryLee has been a staunch advocate for vulnerable populations, including pregnant teens, the uninsured, and the working poor. Her volunteer work at the Free Clinic in Carbondale IL in 1972-74 made her aware of the need for RNs to be involved in their communities. After relocating to Traverse City, she worked and volunteered at the Free Clinic for most 20 years in a variety of positions. Later on in her career, she practiced at the FQHC Traverse Health Clinic, exemplifying her commitment to integrated care, where she provided primary care and mental health services to underserved individuals. Additionally, MaryLee served as a nurse practitioner at the Traverse City VA Clinic from 2007 to 2014 and held the position of clinical director and nurse practitioner at the Northwest Michigan Health Services Migrant Health Clinic.

Beyond her clinical work, MaryLee has made significant contributions to public policy. She has testified before the Michigan legislature on multiple occasions to advocate for support in nursing education and to promote safe and healthy working conditions for nurses. As the former president of the Michigan Council of Nurse Practitioners (MICNP), she was instrumental in advocating for legislation that allows nurse practitioners to practice independently from physicians. Her ongoing involvement with MICNP, the Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, and the American Nurses Association-Michigan Foundation (on the Board of Directors) reflects her commitment to professional development and advocacy within the nurse practitioner community.

Crediting her success to her ability to listen and her relentless drive to make a difference in the lives of others, MaryLee's exemplary dedication to nursing and advocacy has not gone unnoticed. She has received numerous accolades, including the 2013 Nurse Practitioner of the Year award from the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (Michigan). In 2006, she was honored with the Carol E. Franck Nursing Leadership Award from the Michigan Center for Nursing for her tireless advocacy on behalf of the nursing profession in Michigan. Moreover, she received the Michigan Nurses Association's Bertha Culp Human Rights Award in 2005 for her dedicated service to vulnerable populations.

Outside her professional commitments, MaryLee enjoys engaging in creative activities like printmaking, biking, and spending time with her family, which provide her with a balanced and fulfilling lifestyle.

As MaryLee Pakieser continues her impactful journey in nursing and advocacy, her unwavering dedication serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and the communities she serves. Her extensive experience, coupled with her passion for healthcare reform and support for underserved populations, marks her as a formidable force in the field of nursing.

Learn More about MaryLee Pakieser:

Through her online profile, <https://todaysnurse.org/nurse/4150958>

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