Nursing a passion for McGill students

Nurses serve on the frontlines of health care and deliver the bulk of medical services, yet they often receive very little fanfare for their selfless efforts – even in instances when their work might mean the difference between life and death.

As a former nurse, Gillian Cargill Valiquette, BN’70, MEd’90, knows full well the important part played by these unsung heroes of health care. That’s why she chose to embark on a career in nursing education, a role that empowered her to teach future generations of medical professionals and provide them with the skills they need to care for patients with compassion and professionalism.

“Nurses are the glue that holds the health care system together,” explains Cargill Valiquette, who spent 22 years as a nursing teacher at Montreal’s Dawson College.

Cargill Valiquette credits McGill with providing her with a solid academic foundation to launch her teaching career. That appreciation inspired her to make her first gift to the University in 1971, and she has donated generously and consistently ever since, designating the bulk of her support to the Ingram School of Nursing and the McGill Libraries. She has also made plans for a bequest to support the Libraries, an area of the University that she believes is integral to the continued growth and success of students.

“The Libraries were hugely helpful when I was a student, they remain hugely helpful for students today, and they will be hugely helpful for students in the future,” she explains.

Though Cargill Valiquette retired from teaching in 1997, her planned gift will enable her to touch the lives of students for generations to come.

“I believe in higher education and I believe in McGill,” she says. “It is important to give back to the people who helped you.”