

TAKING CARE

The BLACK ANGELS
of SEA VIEW HOSPITAL

Family Discussion Guide

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE: Examine and reflect on the various themes introduced in *Taking Care: The Black Angels of Sea View Hospital*. Please begin your tour starting at the left side of the gallery and use this guide to prompt conversation throughout. The exhibition continues upstairs with *Back and Song*.



Halloween Party in Children's Ward, 1952 Collection of the NYC Department of Records (dpc.2526)

Tuberculosis (TB) has caused more deaths in history than any other infectious disease. Built in 1913, Sea View Hospital only served TB patients. In 1951, Sea View's nursing staff conducted the first clinical trials of isoniazid, the cure for tuberculosis.

IMAGINE: What do you think it felt like to be a child patient in Sea View Hospital?

(See panels, "The Essential Work of Sea View Hospital" + "Living at Sea View")

In 1930, 25% of Sea View's patients were children. They grew up on hospital grounds, away from their parents. They attended school and likely made their first friends at Sea View.

LOOK: View the portraits of the nurses and read their names

CONCLUDE: Where did the nurses come from? What motivated healthcare workers to take a job at Sea View Hospital?

(See panel, "The 'Black Angels'")

Nurses answered the call to work at Sea View and joined the Great Migration—the movement of an estimated six million Black Southerners to Northern and Western states in pursuit of economic opportunity and an escape from racial violence.

LISTEN: Use headphones provided in the exhibit to hear from nurses and their families in their own words.

DISCUSS: How did they challenge discrimination in the workplace?



Back and Song, 2019-2023 (detail), Elissa Blount Moorhead and Bradford Young, Photo by Kris Graves

CONSIDER: How did the “Black Angels” create community on Staten Island? What is their legacy? (See panel, “Between Sisters” + “A Proud Legacy”)

Nurses joined and sometimes founded social, political, and professional organizations to advocate in sisterhood for the interests of their peers and neighbors in the face of racism at home and work.

COMPARE: How did frontline workers you know handle the pressure of working during the COVID-19 pandemic? How did their experiences compare with the “Black Angels” experiences? (See panel, “The Power of Public Health”)

During the COVID-19 pandemic, frontline workers risked their lives to do their jobs in the face of a deadly illness without a cure.

Continue your visit upstairs with *Back and Song*, a meditative film installation.

REFLECT: What does it take to make history?

Learn more:

STATEN ISLAND
MUSEUM

1000 Richmond Terrace, Building A
Staten Island, New York 10301

StatenIslandMuseum.org



This guide is made possible by the Mid-Island Rotary Club Foundation