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## A personal history

The 1936 portrait of a boy at an unknown orphanage is among the photographs in "A Shared Experience" — a pictorial history of health and human services. The 2-month-long exhibition at Yakima Valley Regional Library opens Wednesday with a reception from 5 to 7.



Nurses and patients pose for a photograph in an early-day hospital ward at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Yakima.

(Photos courtesy of DSHS and St. Elizabeth Medical Center)



# Social service exhibit opens

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A photo exhibit chronicling the history of health and social services in Washington state opens Wednesday at the Yakima Valley Regional Library.

"A Shared Experience" spotlights the people, programs and policies that have helped meet the social service needs of the state's residents during the past 100 years. The centennial exhibit opens with a reception from 5-7 p.m. in the library's auditorium and will remain on view on the library's main floor through Dec. 15.

Two dozen panels offer a pictorial salute to 62 Washingtonians, including five Yakima Valley residents, who have made

significant contributions to human services in the Valley.

The local honorees are Margaret Mary Cassidy, Christine A. Kuester, Watson B. Totus, Mother Joseph and Joe Garcia.

The photographs offer glimpses into the realities of previous decades as shaped by economic conditions, current philosophies and the events of the times, said Maryln Brady, centennial coordinator for the Department of Social and Health Services.

The exhibit focuses on medical care, mental health treatment, assistance to the poor and elderly, child and family services and the care of the developmentally and physically disabled.

"I think the exhibit shows the diversity of this area, both

culturally and in terms of the contributions made by local workers," said Aracelia Antunez, program manager in the DSHS' Division of Refugee Assistance.

"As these communities research and discover their own role in this ongoing history of human services, a more complete story will begin to unfold — the story of how the people of Washington have been building, year by year, a community of caring," said Brady.

In conjunction with the exhibit, a forum on the future of health care is scheduled for 7 p.m. Nov. 21 in the auditorium at St. Elizabeth Medical Center.

"A Shared Experience" is sponsored by DSHS, Sisters of Providence, the Washington State Hospital Association and the Washington Commission for the Humanities.



**Margaret Mary Cassidy**

Margaret Mary Cassidy, a public health nurse who devoted her life to nursing after losing her fiancé and six family members to tuberculosis. She arrived in Yakima in 1918 to fill the newly-created position of Yakima County tuberculosis nurse. She stayed in the Valley for 30 years, becoming an advocate for the health care needs of the young, especially Indian children. She supervised the flu hospital set up in St. Michael's Episcopal Church during the epidemic of 1918, was instrumental in organizing free dental clinics and founded the speech therapy program at Hoover Elementary School. She died in 1967.



**Christine Kuester**

Christine A. Kuester, one of the first social service caseworkers enlisted to carry out the county's version of public welfare. Setting up shop in the back room of the Gromore Store, she issued work orders and grocery vouchers. Yakima County continued to wage its seasonal battle against poverty and unemployment until the federal Social Security Act became law in 1935. She made the transition from working with a local agency to working for a state-administered program. During her career, Kuester saw the use of vouchers come and go and be replaced by monthly grants. She saw the county's initial food and shelter basics be expanded to include medical costs, clothing and incidental expenses. Kuester, who still makes Yakima her home, approved the first old age assistance grant in the county.



**Watson B. Totus**

Watson B. Totus, a leader of the Yakima Tribe for more than 42 years. Totus brought a balance of old and new ideas to the nation, holding on to traditional values while advocating the need for additional education. The tribal leader's grandfather was among the signers of the Treaty of 1855 between the Yakima Nation and the U.S. government. Totus worked to maintain the rights spelled out in the treaty and to improve the quality of life of the Yakimas. He was instrumental in developing the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Yakima Nation Cultural Center. He also worked to attract funding for the White Salmon Community Center and negotiated the first steps in establishing the Indian Child Welfare agreement between the nation and the state. He died last year at age 82.



**Mother Joseph**

Mother Joseph, founder of the Northwest's first hospital. Mother Joseph of the Sacred Heart and four other Sisters of Providence arrived at Fort Vancouver in 1856. Within two years, they established the region's first hospital and one of its first schools. Mother Joseph arrived in Yakima in 1875, opening St. Joseph Academy the same year. Six years later, she established St. Elizabeth Hospital at the corner of Yakima and Naches avenues. Before her death in 1902, Mother Joseph had founded 29 hospitals, school, orphanages, homes for the aged and shelters for the mentally ill throughout the West.



**Joe Garcia**

Joe Garcia, a well-known advocate for the needs of Washington's children, youth and families. His concern for families began when he accompanied his farm worker parents to work in the Yakima Valley fields. The Yakima native is now executive director of the Atlantic Street Center. During his career, he founded the Minority Executive Director's Coalition of King County and the Seattle Veterans Action Center and served as the state's employment security commissioner. He also helped form Teen Seattle, a grass-roots project to expand recreational, training and educational services to troubled teens.