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Extra-CHLA: LIVES OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

In Perfect Harmony

by Candace Pearson

Some people sing for their suppers. **Eileen Schmidt**, RN, MSN, sang for her nursing education – and now sings for pure joy as a member of the prestigious Southern California choral group, the Wagner Ensemble.

Schmidt, care manager in the AltaMed General Pediatrics Clinic at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, started singing at age three. In high school, the money she earned directing a church choir at 6:30 a.m. Mass helped to fund nursing school in New York, where she also sang in local pubs and as a backup singer.

Today, singing helps offset the stresses of pediatric nursing. “In this job, you see a lot of destruction of families and children, often through no one’s fault,” says Schmidt, who works with special needs children. “Having a creative

outlet like this is life-saving to my mental health.”

For the past three years, Schmidt has been a full member of the Wagner Ensemble, whose founder and director is Jeannine Wagner, a highly respected conductor, and daughter of the legendary Roger Wagner, who founded the Los Angeles Master Chorale.

The Wagner Ensemble’s repertoire includes centuries-old choral masterpieces by Beethoven and Bach, along with ancient chants, British pub songs, Broadway standards and contemporary compositions. The volunteer singers meet weekly to rehearse in the months up to a major performance.

A contralto, Schmidt specializes in medium and lower ranges. “I can hit a high G if forced,” she laughs. She finds special satisfaction in being part of a chorus. “When you’re making this wonderful



Eileen Schmidt during the Wagner Ensemble rehearsal

sound together, you feel an amazing sense of oneness.”

Schmidt also performs as a soloist and member of two choirs at her church, St. Philip the Apostle in Pasadena, and at other venues. Her daughter, Laura, 20, and son, Matt, 17, are studying for careers in vocal performance. Her husband, **David Schmidt**, RN, MSN, CPNP, clinical manager in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, has served over the years as ticket-taker, poster-maker, babysitter and usher.

Schmidt is starting rehearsals for the Wagner Ensemble’s holiday concert, “Christmas in the Americas,” December 17 at the Westwood United Methodist Church.

“Music goes to a different part of the brain,” she says, “and I believe it goes to a different part of the heart and spirit. To sing for people – to communicate something beautiful or fun – is a privilege.”

Volunteers IN ACTION

Delivering Food For The Soul

by Elena F. Epstein



Donna Quiroz delivering a hot meal

Donna Quiroz, RN, BSN, in the Bone Marrow Transplant Unit, was first introduced to Project Angel Food through a simple flyer in the mail asking for donations. She was intrigued by the organization’s motto: “*For life, for love, for as long as it takes.*”

After speaking to a representative, she knew she wanted to do more than write a check; she wanted to be an active participant in the program, which prepares and delivers free, nutritious hot meals to homebound individuals.

Once a week for the last five years, Quiroz has been driving from her home in Torrance to a church in South Central Los Angeles to pickup food and then sets off on her route to deliver each meal, driving a total of 50 miles. She currently delivers 12 meals in the South Central area. Many of her clients are elderly, some suffering from serious illnesses.

“They are all so grateful to see me and to have this warm meal,”

says Quiroz. “I feel like I have so much in my life and to be able to give back in some small way feels wonderful.”

Quiroz’s deliveries are more than just a much-needed nutritious meal. She also brings a sense of compassion to help reduce the isolation that many of her clients experience. Her warm smile and friendly chitchat have become a welcomed treat for her clients.

Project Angel Food began in 1989 with a mission to provide hot meals to those affected by HIV/AIDS. It has since grown to include individuals with other serious illnesses, as well as, homebound elderly. Since its inception, the program has prepared and delivered more than 3.4 million meals.

Quiroz, who began her nursing career at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles 13 years ago, says one of her main motivations to become involved with Project Angel Food was to help her 10-year-old son, Mathew, learn first-hand about generosity and the importance of giving back to the community. Until he entered school, Mathew would accompany his mom on her weekly deliveries and he continues to join her on winter and summer vacations.

“When I started he was four years old and he loved to run and knock on the doors and shake hands,” recalls Quiroz. “This has been a very important life lesson for him to realize how blessed we are and how we need to give back.”

Double the JOY

Nursing Team Instrumental in Successful Separation

by Vicki Cho Estrada



Separated twins Regina and Renata Salinas Fierros under the watchful eyes of Kristi Brandt, RN (left) and Coleen Lutz, RN (right)

For **Beryl Muniz, RN, MAS**, seeing the 10-month-old twin girls lying in separate beds was the defining moment. It was then that she realized all the months of planning and preparation had paid off.

“When I saw those girls were now really separate, it was a testament to everyone’s hard work,” says Muniz, associate vice president, Perioperative Services. “It was very emotional for everyone.”

The girls, Regina and Renata Salinas Fierros, entered Childrens Hospital this past summer connected from the lower chest through the pelvis, facing one another. They discharged from the hospital two separate little girls following a rare, complex surgery that took almost an entire day and required a team of nearly 80 physicians, nurses and other caregivers, headed by James E. Stein, MD, FACS, FAAP.

Regina and Renata were “Ischiopagus Tetrapus” twins, which are among the rarest types of conjoined twins and most challenging to separate because

they involve many organ systems – liver, intestine, urinary, reproductive, vascular and musculoskeletal systems. (“Ischio” is a Greek word for “hip,” “pagus” for “fixed” or “united,” and “tetrapus” means “fetus with four feet.”)

Performing complex surgeries is nothing new to Childrens Hospital. In 2003, another set of rare conjoined twins – Macey and Mackenzie Garrison – were successfully separated by a comparable team.

Like the surgery three years ago, the separation of Regina and Renata involved months of planning for the dozen surgical procedures, which included dividing the breastbone, liver, intestine, urinary bladders, genital organs and the bony pelvis and reconstructing the chests, intestines, vaginas, ureters, pelvises and body walls.

The twins had been seen regularly at Childrens Hospital since their birth on Aug. 2, 2005 at LAC+USC Medical Center. They underwent various diagnostic procedures, a reversible colostomy and the insertion of

“tissue expanders” to gain additional skin and soft tissue to close the open wounds after the separation surgery.

Muniz was responsible for coordinating nursing care in Perioperative Services and the Operating Room and worked directly with Dr. Stein, who led the milestone surgery that began on June 14 and ended 22 hours later. Dr. Stein also headed the separation of Macey and Mackenzie, who were joined from just below their diaphragms to their pelvises, or “Ischiopagus Tripus” conjoined twins (“Tripus” is the Greek word for “three legs”).

To prepare for Regina and Renata’s surgery and follow-up care, Muniz worked closely with **Nancy Bridges, RN, MBA, CNOR**, operations manager, Operating Room (OR), and **Teri Loera, RN, BSN, CNA**, operations manager, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) – both of whom were part of the team for the 2003 procedure.



Teri Loera

The team oversaw countless details, including the flow of care; staffing levels and backup plans; configuring the OR; identifying medical supplies, instrumentation and equipment; communicating with staff and patients’ family members, and handling logistical issues, such as providing food and rest areas for the staff.



Nancy Bridges

“There was a tremendous amount of coordination between Perioperative Services, the OR and the PICU,” says Muniz, who was involved in a separation of conjoined twins at Childrens National in Washington, D.C. before coming to Childrens Hospital last year. “There were cross-divisional meetings, subgroup meetings and rehearsals in the OR – everything was carefully choreographed.”

Once Dr. Stein determined the necessary procedures and estimated length of surgery – approximately 24 hours – Bridges was able to plan staffing for the OR.

Four nurses – two assigned to each girl – worked 12-hour shifts throughout the procedure. They were selected for their surgical specialties, such as cardiac, general pediatric, orthopedics and plastic surgery, as well as their shift schedules for optimum continuity of care.

Bridges, who has worked in the OR for 25 of her 38 years at Childrens Hospital, says the experience gained from the Garrison twins’ procedure was valuable in planning for Renata and Regina’s surgery.

“There were some things we knew. For example, making sure we had enough space to accommodate all the equipment,” she says, noting there were two of everything – anesthesia machines,

A Passion for Children, Learning and Teaching

by Candace Pearson



Maria Velasco

Maria Velasco, RN, has attended plenty of meetings of the RN Professional Ladder Committee at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles since its founding several years ago, first as a member and now co-chair. None has been as nerve-racking as last April, when she awaited word on her own application for Clinical Nurse IV ranking.

Nervous and slightly embarrassed, she entered the committee room, where members meet to assess applications from nurses for advancement up the clinical ladder. "It was very stressful to apply to my own committee," recalls Velasco, who works in Hematology/Oncology.

The other nurses greeted her with an ovation – a sure sign she had just achieved the first Clinical Nurse IV in Hematology/Oncology history. (The new ranking became official in May.)

"The RN IV validates everything I've worked for and am still working on," says Velasco, who started at Childrens Hospital in 1985 in bed reservations, before she even decided to become a nurse. Once in nursing school, she set her sights on Hematology/Oncology – and she's been there since. She calls it her passion. "These kids are remarkable. They can be very, very sick, and they still have so much life in them."

Another passion is education. She teaches a monthly class on side effects of chemotherapy to nursing staff, as well as various skills labs and the Pediatric Life Support System. She also is a CPR instructor trainer. Recently, she accepted an invitation to present a talk on the top five cancers to Emergency Department staff. She and other 4th floor nurses are planning to develop classes on end-of-life nursing in 2007. "Teaching is another way for me to contribute as a nurse," she explains.

"Maria is an outstanding RN – an excellent role model, teacher and support to all the staff," says **Rita Secola, RN, MSN, CPON**, clinical manager, Hematology/Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant. "The 4th floor managers always say we wish we could clone her."

Velasco's committee experience may have looked good on her résumé, but qualifying as an RN IV meant she had to gather a detailed packet attesting to her professional expertise and experience, along with writing several case studies. Last year, she contributed to a poster for the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nursing, which fulfilled the requirement for publication.

Even though Velasco has achieved RN IV, her education goes on, she says. "There's always something new to learn."

of Rare Conjoined Twins

computers with each girl's chart and lab work, not to mention twice as many staff.

As an added safety measure, the team employed a color-coded system. Regina's equipment and support team had red tags and badges; Renata's had blue. After more than 12 hours in surgery, the twins were separated, followed by eight hours of orthopaedic and reconstructive plastic surgery.

Seeing the girls separated "was a wonderful feeling," says Bridges. "It's the same feeling with each of the surgeries you do – to be able to see the good outcome for the child and see the joy of the family."



Beryl Muniz

The day before the surgery, two PICU nurses were caring for the twins. With surgery completed, the PICU was again ready to take over their care. Waiting in a large room normally used to accommodate four patients were three PICU nurses.

Coordinating that first shift in the PICU was challenging. "Even though we had a tentative agenda as far as timing, it was very fluid," Loera says, adding she received pages throughout the night with revised timelines. "Things can take longer or go faster in surgery. I needed to

know where we were on that timeline so I could know when to call the nurses in."

The six PICU nurses assigned to the girls for the first 24 hours following surgery were prepared to handle any complication. Fortunately, the twins made good progress and Renata moved to 6 East on July 2, followed by Regina on July 14. A day after their first birthday, both girls were at home with their parents.

"We had a great outcome and that's directly attributable to all the planning," Muniz says. "We had a great team – everyone was a high-functioning team member," she says, adding there were about 20 nurses involved in the separation. "Clinically, twin separations don't happen many times in your nursing career. It's exciting to be a part of it, especially when it's successful and well done."

PICU RN Team

Dennis Dingler
Tonette So*
Heidi Geary
Jen Huson
Joseph Ng
Lisa Rogers
Diana Sepulveda
Linda Topper*

OR RN Team

Nichole Anderson
Kristi Brandt
Maria Carranza*
Al Flores*
Rebecca Gregg
Paula Guzman
Olivia Herrera*
Geon Lee*
Coleen Lutz
Katherine Massip
Sheleen Tolentino

OR Charge Nurses

Judith Casquejo
Adriana Savadjan-Smith*

**Also served on 2003 separation team*



Mary Dee Hacker RN, MBA
Vice President, Patient Care Services &
Chief Nursing Officer

What a wonderful experience to watch 61 local high school students dressed in their scrubs walking around the different hospital units with our nurses, asking questions and interacting with patients. Camp CHLA is a terrific new program that we launched here this summer to introduce young students to the world of health care. Thanks to our generous sponsors and our team of 300 hospital volunteers, we were able to give these students a behind-the-scenes, hands-on look at what nursing is all about. And to see them filled with energy and curiosity reminded all of us about the importance of nurturing the next generation of caregivers.

The statistics on the shortage of nurses are grim. But, as I watched the enthusiastic faces of our young campers, I knew that here at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles we are making a difference. Exposing young people to the rich opportunities in health care is paramount in ensuring that future generations will continue to receive the type of advanced care that our hospital is known for.

Our young campers had the opportunity to interact with very knowledgeable nurses, like those who had recently been involved with the rare and complex surgery that separated conjoined twins, Regina and Renata. Few nurses have the opportunity to be involved with such groundbreaking procedures. But here at Childrens Hospital, we successfully separated another set of rare conjoined twins – Macey and Mackenzie – just three years ago. We are truly an institution of learning and innovation. Our nurses are constantly performing a delicate balancing act of delivering the most advanced medical care and the soothing, gentle touch that is critical for our young patients. I'm very proud to have the opportunity to share our knowledge and our passion for the health and well being of children with young students who are about to embark on their career. Together, we can nurture a new generation of dedicated and compassionate nurses.

High School Students Gain Valuable Perspective on Nursing

by Vicki Cho Estrada



Camp CHLA graduates

At 17, Carol Davila already knows she wants to be a nurse. Not just any nurse – a Hematology/Oncology nurse at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

Davila, a senior at Hoover High, reached this conclusion over the summer after participating in Camp CHLA, a brand new program that exposes high school students to nursing and the health professions.



Anna Hocker (left) with student Monica Pupo in 4 West

Sixty-one carefully selected students – wearing scrubs with a Camp CHLA patch – participated in the first “...camp...” held August 7-11 at the hospital. There was no cost to the students who participated in the program.

During the week, campers heard presentations from various units and disciplines, received CPR instruction and certification, took part in hands-on skills labs, including taking vital signs and glucose testing, and observed nurses, physicians and others as they cared for their patients.

“There’s nothing else like this in Southern California,” according to **Susan Cline**, RNC, MSN, MBA, magnet program director in Patient Care Services (PCS), who proposed the program to hospital management.

“The goal was to make it multi-disciplinary for all health care professionals, but obviously, nursing is a major focus because of the nationwide nursing shortage,” she adds. “We see this program as a recruitment tool for the future.”

The program operated with funding from Johnson & Johnson, and a Health Research Services Administration (HRSA) grant administered by Versant Advantage, Inc. Cline spearheaded a committee to oversee the program. Members included: **Salomay Dyer**, RCP, MBA; **Irene Klecha**, RN, MSN, curriculum coordinator for the RN Residency; **Leslie Neuman**, PCS staff development program coordinator; **Pattie Soltero**, RN, MAOM, education manager on 6 North; **Kathy Stever**, RCP;



Erin Adkins (left) with student Jeffrey Phu in the CNICC

Peggy Townsend, RN, MSN, education manager on 4 West/ Bone Marrow Transplant, and **Suzanne Taylor**, RN, MSN, EMT-B, manager of PCS staff development.

The committee sent program brochures to about 200 schools throughout Los Angeles County and selected 61 students from the 168 applicants, all of whom had to write an essay on why they were interested in a healthcare career. “The students were amazing – they were exposed to our sickest patients and handled it well,” says Cline.



Mahrenya Migacz (left) with student Linett Chevez in 5 East

“When I see really sick kids, I get even more motivated to be a nurse,” says Jeffrey Phu, a senior at Bravo High School who “job shadowed” **Erin Adkins**, RN, and saw her care for a three-week-old baby girl with a heart defect in the Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care (CNICC).

“Nursing is an emotional field,” says Adkins, one of 300 staff members who volunteered to help with the program. “If people see our patient population, they’re either scared or drawn to it. This program is a good opportunity to help them decide if they want to get into health care.”

Davila, who had her spleen removed at Childrens Hospital last spring and shadowed **Pauline Kim**, RN, in Hematology/Oncology, says, “There’s so much more to nursing than I thought... I want to do this more than I ever imagined.”

PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES:

Mary Baron Nelson, RN and **Kathy Meeske, RN** (Hematology/Oncology) had a paper accepted for publication in *Pediatric Blood and Cancer*, entitled "Factors Associated with Health-Related Quality of Life in Pediatric Cancer Survivors." Kathy is also the recipient of the 2006 STOP CANCER Research Career Development Award. This award provides \$150,000 over three years and is matched in-kind by the USC/Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center. STOP CANCER is a non-profit volunteer organization dedicated to raising funds for cancer research by supporting young research scientists on the cutting edge of cancer research.

Linda Weeks, RN, clinical analyst (KIDS) was the individual CHLA employee who brought in the most money in the Employee Change Bandit Competition – \$363.05 – during the August 2006 KBIG 104.3 Tunathon and took home the top prize of a Marriott Hotel stay.

Gloria Verret, RN (6 North) and **Armi Bui, RN** (Hematology/Oncology) tied for third-place in the Society of Pediatric Nurses' "Best Practices in Pediatric Nursing" national essay contest. Both essays will be published in the SPN section of the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*.

Kathy Stevenson, RN, supervisor/manager of the Disaster Resource Center, was a panel member at a Pandemic Flu Summit Tabletop Exercise in Los Angeles. She was one of four representatives who spoke on the issues regarding healthcare in an epidemic. California First Lady Maria Shriver was the moderator of the panel.

Fran Blayney, RN, education manager (Pediatric Intensive Care) was a guest faculty at the 11th Pediatric Critical Care Symposium, Sept. 14 & 15, 2006 at Loma Linda University.

Nancy Pike, RN (Cardiothoracic Surgery) will be published in the Nov./Dec. 2006 issue of *Heart & Lung* on "Health-Related Quality of Life: A Closer Look at Related Research in Fontan Patients Over the Last Decade." She gave a lecture on "Pediatric Cardiac Surgery" on Aug. 17, 2006 at the UCLA School of Nursing for visiting professors and students from Kitsamoto University, Japan. She also received a \$1,000 Chironian Merit Based Scholarship in July 2006 for academic excellence at the UCLA School of Nursing.

Meghan Meehan, RN and **Pauline Kim, RN** (4 West) both entered graduate school at UCLA for their PNP.

Kelley Halley, RN (Hematology/Oncology) presented current status of the Head Start III brain tumor treatment study at the Head Start III Investigators Meeting on Oct. 4, 2006. She has also been elected incoming president of the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Nurses (SCAPHON).

Beth Hasenauer, RN (Hematology/Oncology) was elected as treasurer of SCAPHON.

Annie Nord, RN (Hematology-Oncology) is the co-chair membership board member of SCAPHON.

Kellie Loera, RN (4 East) has been promoted to clinical manager.

Susan J. Rabinovitz, RN (Adolescent Medicine) received a \$212,000, two-year grant from The California Endowment to conduct a needs assessment of runaway and homeless youth in Hollywood. The data generated will be used to assess the adequacy of

existing services, design service improvements and develop and disseminate recommendations for public agencies and policy makers. The Division of Adolescent Medicine, along with local agencies participating in the Hollywood Homeless Youth Partnership, is conducting this project.

Cindy Rowlett, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) was promoted to education manager in August 2006.

The Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care (CNICC) hosted a special reunion for its patients on Sept. 16, 2006 at the Live Steamers in Griffith Park. Part reunion party and part health fair, the CNICC event was an opportunity for former patients and their families to reunite with the staff who helped care for them.

Debbie Harris, RN (Hematology) was featured in an article, "The Hard Cell: Nurses at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles Tackle Sickle Cell Disease," in the Sept. 4, 2006 issue of *Advance for Nurses Magazine*.

Suzanne Diers, RN, director (PCS Medical/Surgical Units) presented "Therapeutic Boundaries" for the LA Chapter of SPN on July 12, 2006.

Congratulations to the following Daisy Award recipients:

Tracy Olson, RN (6 West) – July 2006

Ngairé Wilson, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) – August 2006

Stana Fustar, RN (Hematology/Oncology) – September 2006

Geon Lee, RN (Operating Room) – October 2006

Connie Gallardo, RN (Magik Pain Service) spoke on "Pain Management and Hemophilia" at the Inhibitor Patient Education Summit for patients and families in Anaheim on Sept. 29, 2006.

Debbie Jury, RN and **Connie Gallardo, RN** (Magik Pain Service) collaborated on the following projects: Conducted a workshop on "Opioid Management" at the CHLA Practical Pediatric Pain Management & End-of-Life Conference on Oct. 28, 2006. They published an article on "Current Trends in Pediatric Pain Management: From Preoperative to the Postoperative Bedside and Beyond," in *Seminars in Anesthesia, Preoperative Medicine and Pain*. They also coordinated an eight-hour PCS Pain Management Course held on Oct. 12, 2006. Connie gave a lecture on "Pain Assessment" and Debbie gave two lectures "Acute Pain Management: The Pain Game and Pearls" and "Opioid/Benzodiazepine Withdrawal Assessment and Prevention."

Debbie Jury, RN (Magik Pain Service) spoke at the First Annual West Coast Prune Belly Syndrome Association Meeting on July 22, 2006 on "Managing Pain Associated with Prune Belly Syndrome and Surgical Procedures." She was acknowledged for important contributions to the CHAI NICU Pain Project 2002-2003 in the article that was published in the Oct. 2006 issue of *Pediatrics*. She also lectured on "Pediatric Pain Assessment for Dummies" at the CHLA Practical Pediatric Pain Management & End-of-Life Conference on Oct. 28, 2006.

Jessica Klaristenfeld, RN is the new manager for the RN Residency in Pediatrics Program.

Kristine Mandani, RN is the new manager of implementation for Versant RN Residency.

Anna Hocker, RN (4 West) received her MSN degree from UCLA.

Cathy Goodhue, RN, research coordinator (Medical Genetics) gave the following lectures: "Respiratory

Assessment: Focus on Asthma and Allergies; Food Allergies" on July 8, 2006 at the National Association of School Nurses' 22nd Annual Advances in School Nursing Regional Symposia in Manhattan Beach; "Pediatric Sneezers and Wheezers; RSV" at Kaiser Riverside and at Lodi Memorial Hospital; "Rapid Pediatric Assessment; What Does This Lab Value Mean?" at Lodi Memorial Hospital. Her article, "The Evolving Responsibilities of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner," was published in the July/August 2006 issue of the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care*.

Susan Cline, RN (Magnet Program coordinator) completed a dual Masters degree, MBA in Healthcare Administration and MSN from the University of Phoenix on Oct. 23, 2006.

Pauline Beecroft, PhD, RN (nurse researcher) had a poster presentation, "Creating a Culture of Retention. Stop the Revolving Door," at Loma Linda University Medical Center in July 2006. She was also an invited speaker in September 2006 at the Versant RN Residency Client Conference in San Diego on "Mentor Program Enhancements: Ideas for Today and Tomorrow." She was also published in the *Journal of Advanced Nursing* on "New Graduate Nurses' Perceptions of Mentoring: Program Results Over Six Years."

Rita Secola, RN, clinical manager (4 West/Bone Marrow Transplant), **Peggy Townsend, RN**, education manager (4 West/Bone Marrow Transplant) and **Ada Santa-Cruz, RN** (4 West) were cited in an article, "Careers in Pediatric Oncology Nursing," published in the Summer 2006 issue of *Minority Nurse Magazine*.

Congratulations to the following promotions and certifications:

Dolores Greenwood (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RN III

Renee Lucci-Richards (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RN III

Lisa Rogers (Pediatric Intensive Care) – RN III

Cheryl McCauley (5 West) – RN III

Feri Kiani, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN

Diana Sepulveda, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN

Loise Brancale, RN (Endocrinology) – CDE

Patricia Godoy, RN (Emergency) – CPN

Jon McKinnon, RN (Emergency) – CPN

LIFE CELEBRATIONS:

Sona Daldumyan, RN (4 West) – married

Anna Hocker, RN (4 West) – married

Jessie Jehle, RN (4 West) – married

Melissa Stewart, RN (4 West) – married

Babies:

Cynthia Cardenas, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) – girl

Richie Malicse, RN and **Kristin Shultz, RN** (Bone Marrow Transplant) – girl

Maria Bautista-Durand, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – girl

Debbie Hudson, RN (Emergency) – girl

Janet Waugh, RN and **Suzy Sweeney, RN** (Pediatric Intensive Care) ran the Inaugural Disneyland Half Marathon on Sept. 17, 2006.

Janet Waugh, RN and **Suzy Sweeney, RN** (Pediatric Intensive Care) ran the Inaugural Disneyland Half Marathon on Sept. 17, 2006.

Dave Schmidt, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) was awarded the Vigil Honor in July 2006 in recognition of distinguished contributions to Scouting and the Order of the Arrow, as a member of the Ta Tanka Lodge of the San Gabriel Valley Council.

Tommy Covington Honored With Hospital Hero Award



Tommy Covington

Known to many as “*TLC*,” **Tommy Covington**, RN (Childrens Center for Cancer and Blood Diseases) was recently honored with the first annual Hospital Hero Award, presented by the National Health Foundation.

The Hospital Hero Awards honors health care professionals on the frontlines who are making “outstanding achievements within the hospital walls each and everyday.” This year’s inaugural awards luncheon was held Nov. 10, 2006 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel and Suites in Los Angeles.

Upon nominating Covington for this award, his colleagues wrote: “He surpasses the expectations of a friendly coworker and seems more like a close family member...he is always promoting quality nursing care, re-educating the staff and supporting the needs of

everyone...After greeting all of the staff, Tommy makes his rounds through all of the patients and family members. He ensures everyone that they will all receive quality care from him and also the rest of the staff.”

Covington began his career with Childrens Hospital Los Angeles as a student nurse in 1969 and has been working at the pediatric medical facility ever since.

“I have a genuine love for Childrens Hospital and I am truly grateful for the many opportunities to excel through various nursing levels and participate in the research, clinical trials and care delivery,” says Covington.



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