

Extra-CHLA: LIVES OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

Casting Call – RN on the Set

by Candace Pearson

If you pass **Mary Ellen Farr**, RN, in the halls at Children's Hospital Los Angeles and think you've seen her somewhere before, you're probably right. And it isn't necessarily the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU) where she works.

Farr's other passionate vocation is acting. She has appeared in print and TV ads, as well as in several films and TV dramas—including as a nurse on the cable show "I Didn't Know I Was Pregnant" and a doctor on "Mystery ER."

Farr was bitten by the acting bug during high school in Grand Rapids, Mich., but her practical family discouraged acting as a profession. Three decades ago,

Farr moved to California and started working at Children's Hospital. She also began taking acting classes and, later, improvisational comedy.

She loves the craft of acting. "To watch a brilliant actor at work is one of the most joyful things to experience," she says, "but making a living at it is tough."

Five years into her double life, she realized she had to make a choice—acting or nursing. She chose nursing. "I've never regretted that decision. My nursing career has given me meaning and made me who I am today."

For nearly 20 years, she didn't act. Then, in 2005, she saw a catalogue for Activa sportswear that featured young, everyday women as models. Farr, a fit ocean swimmer, thought, "Why

not me?" She emailed the company and was soon hired as their featured athlete. At the photo shoot, a makeup artist referred Farr to an agent, who signed her as a client.

In 2008, she achieved the mark of a true acting professional—her Screen Actor's Guild membership—after appearing in an industrial film for Intel. Recently, she scored a job as stand-in for "Glee" lead Jane Lynch in a Barnes & Noble commercial. The odds of show business success no longer discourage Farr. "I don't want to be famous. The work and auditions are fun."

Best of all, as an actor, she says, "I can make a mistake, screw up a line and no one will get hurt. I can't do that at Children's Hospital."



Mary Ellen Farr, RN

Volunteers IN ACTION

Planting the Seeds of Hope

by Elena F. Epstein

Eileen Duncan, RN, (6East) just wanted to bring the beauty of nature into her children's elementary school. "The school was all asphalt with a chain link fence around it," recalls Duncan. "Every child deserves a decent learning environment."

So she volunteered to plant a little vegetable garden at the school in the early 1990s. Not only would it bring some greenery into the environment, but the students at the science magnet school could use the garden as a living laboratory. There wasn't a parent base to help provide Duncan with donated supplies, so she recycled milk cartons to use as planters, learned how to write grants and reached



Eileen Duncan, RN

out to community organizations and local philanthropists. Within 10 years, Duncan and her army of volunteers, had planted flowering vines covering the entire perimeter of the school, created a thriving vegetable garden with tomatoes, peppers, squash and zucchini, as well as a reading garden with native plants, roses, benches and tiles with inspiring quotes from literature.

Duncan's gardening passion continued as all three of her children went through elementary, middle and high school, taking her green thumb and uncanny ability to bring community volunteers together to Brentwood Science Magnet, Los Angeles Center for Enriched Studies (LACES) and Westchester High School. With every seed planted, Duncan has not only taught gardening skills, but has given low income families easy access to fresh, low-cost produce and has built bridges between schools and their neighbors.

Since 2005, she has been a member of the Los Angeles County Master Gardener Volunteer Program, part of the University of California Cooperative Extension, providing gardening education to low-income residents. Master Gardeners provide free gardening workshops and their technical expertise to public community school, senior and shelter gardens throughout Los Angeles County. In addition, Duncan spends at least one day a week at one of her schools planting or teaching students about compost, irrigation, soil preparation and harvesting.

Duncan's children have all graduated college, but she says their school mates who see her in the neighborhood still know her as the "gardening lady."

"The more people work together, the more you can make your environment a better place," Duncan says. "Every school, every community can do this. And it's so amazing to see the difference that it can make to the motivation of the kids."

Inside the Anderson Pavilion

Nurses adjust to new, larger environment while providing state-of-the-art patient care

by Vicki Cho Estrada



Shinyi Tang, RN, MSN, CPON

One of the biggest changes for **Shinyi Tang**, RN, MSN, CPON (Bone Marrow Transplant), was the new ante room, which separates an immune-compromised patient's positive-pressure room from the hallway. In the ante room, she can wash her hands, don protective clothing and check most vital signs on a monitor without entering the patient's room.

Barbara Cruz, RN, BSN (6East), previously shared a single



Barbara Cruz, RN, BSN

nurses' station with about nine nurses so it took some time to get used to five nurses' stations on her floor. Where Cruz once struggled to find an available computer, phone and open workspace, she now has all the room she needs.

A much larger medical supply room in the Neonatal Infant Critical Care Unit (NICCU) posed initial challenges for **Amanda Clark**, RN, BSN. Locating supplies like IV catheters, suction tubing and dressing changes, took more time than she was used to, but everything she needs is now conveniently located in one place.



Amanda Clark, RN, BSN

The historic move to the new Marion and John E. Anderson Pavilion on July 17 brought a new era in pediatric and adolescent health care to Children's Hospital Los Angeles with its new 317-bed, state-of-the-art hospital. It also created a world of change for bedside nurses like Tang, Cruz and Clark, whose normal workflow and routine were significantly affected.

In the months leading up to the move, Children's Hospital nurses and other staff members underwent several hours of training on new equipment and processes, such as cardiac monitors,



Kathy Stevenson, RN, BSN

telephones and pneumatic tube systems. They also participated in numerous preparations for move-in day, including carefully orchestrated dress rehearsals.

On move-in day, nurses played a key role in transporting patients and getting them settled into the new hospital building and, in the following days and weeks, they adjusted to a new, larger work environment while continuing to provide the best care possible to patients.

"In true CHLA nursing fashion, the move was flawless," says **Mary Dee Hacker**, RN, MBA, FAAN, NEA-BC vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer. "The new environment is a huge change for all members of the care team, yet CHLA nurses are respectful and supportive of each other through this significant adjustment. I am so very proud to witness the professionalism of every single individual who has made and continues to make the Anderson Pavilion a healing place for our families and an excellent work environment."

"Many people put in long hours to make sure the new building was ready for all the patients," adds **Kathy Stevenson**, RN, BSN, house supervisor, PCS Disaster Resource Center, noting 200 "super users" coordinated and trained other staff members,

helped plan and prepare for the move and served as resources in their respective areas. "What was most remarkable about the move was how smoothly it went; everyone chipped in and followed the plan, just like we practiced. It was an overall team effort."

Stevenson oversaw details of the move, including working with all units and ancillary departments on transfer plans for each of the 191 patients from the existing building to the Anderson Pavilion; assembling "sending" and "receiving" teams at both locations; preparing the floor-by-floor sequence of events and determining their "path of travel," and ensuring that proper equipment and staff accompanied patients during the transfer, with many transport teams having six or more members.

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) was one of the first to receive patients shortly after 7 a.m. **Adam Brenneman**, RN, BSN, CCRN, who helped plan the transfer of 12 PICU patients, says, "We already had the rooms assigned and made sure we staggered the critical patients. We received a new patient every 10 minutes and had our last patient in by 10 a.m."

"The day was pretty exciting," adds Brenneman, who worked from 6 a.m. to 11 a.m. and returned at midnight for his regular night shift. "There was so



Adam Brenneman, RN, BSN, CCRN

Infection Control Detective

by Candace Pearson



Diane Altounji, RN, MSN, CPHON

much work leading up to the move that it was a relief to get everyone in.”

Diane Altounji, RN, MSN, CPHON (4West), who was also at work that day, says, “I was amazed at how well people worked together. The move involved so many different departments—not one floor or a group of nurses. Everyone was so quick to jump in and help.”

She recalls one patient who, after being transported to her floor, developed a skin reaction from pain medication and needed Benadryl. A quick call to the pharmacy resulted in one of the lead pharmacists personally delivering the IV solution to



Altounji. “We were all saying how everyone was on top of it, willing to help with a positive attitude. We all felt really proud we worked here.”

While move-in day went according to plan there was, as expected, a transition period. Tang, who has worked at Children’s Hospital for 15 years, says, “It’s always hard moving into a new home. We had a lot of history on our unit and it’s an adjustment for those of us who have been here a long time.”

Tang says in addition to learning her way around a much larger, U-shaped unit, she had to learn “the right pathways around the hospital” and initially relied on a cheat sheet, including a map with patient names and room numbers.

“As a charge nurse, the biggest challenge (at the Anderson Pavilion) is patient placement,” adds **Albert Bautista**, RN, a 30-year veteran on 5East. “We used to have one nurses’ station and now we have four, so you don’t want all high-acuity patients to be assigned at one station. Now, you have to look at the whole floor to determine where to place patients.”

While the adjustment to the Anderson Pavilion has been challenging at times, Bautista, who works nights, says, “I’m glad I have the best managers on the floor—they’re very supportive and behind us 100 percent.”

Clark adds that what made the transition easier was that managers welcomed feedback and suggestions for improvements in processes and workflows. While she had some difficulty locating items in the new NICCU supply room, it was quickly resolved when someone put together a list of supplies in alphabetical order with their location. “Everyone was good about if they saw a problem or an obstacle, they got out there and took care of it.”

Looking back at the move, Stevenson says, “I’ve worked here for 28 years, and everyday I’m amazed by the wonderful things the staff does. The move and all that was accomplished is something everyone should be proud of.”



Mary Virgallito, CPNP, MSN

For **Mary Virgallito**, CPNP, MSN, tracking down everyone who may have had contact with an infectious disease is a lot like being a detective eliminating suspects.

“You have to do a thorough inventory to identify anyone who may have crossed paths with the patient, then isolate all those necessary to reduce the risk to others,” says Virgallito, manager of infection prevention and control in the Quality Improvement and Patient Safety Department at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles.

Virgallito and her dedicated staff—epidemiologists **Daryl Strano**, MPH, and **Aileen de los Angeles**, MPH,—are vigilant in their quest to prevent and control the spread of communicable diseases and protect patients and staff. “We’re on the hunt every day,” says Virgallito.

Her team monitors nearly 200 communicable infections hospital-wide that must be reported to various agencies, along with 29 surgical procedures to check for post-surgical infections. They also check on hand-hygiene practices, develop new infection control programs and educate staff, patients and visitors. Their goal: Target Zero—as in zero health-care acquired infections.

“No patient should get an infection they didn’t have when they came in. It’s hard to prevent but not impossible,” says Virgallito, who is studying for a certification in infection control.

She started her career at Children’s Hospital on 6East. Later, as nurse manager in Radiology, she got to know the infection control manager, which sparked her own interest. “I’ve always been driven to make things safer,” says Virgallito.

For the move to the Marion and John E. Anderson Pavilion, Virgallito’s team assessed the best locations for protective equipment and hygiene units. They also developed a handy flip book—“The Infection Control Quick Reference Guide”—that now hangs at each nurses’ station.

In 2010, Virgallito led the charge for employee vaccinations during flu season. The result: a 98 percent vaccination rate and no flu transmission from health care employees to patients. Virgallito hopes to match that achievement this year.

She now represents Children’s Hospital at the Child Health Corporation of America, a forum created by pediatric hospitals across the nation to increase quality of care and standardize best practices. “This is such an amazing role for nurses,” she says of her job. “I think I’ve found my spot.”



Mary Dee Hacker, RN, MBA, FAAN, NEA-BC, vice president, Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer

On the evening of July 17, the day we moved into the Anderson Pavilion, a group of night shift nurses from 4West gathered outside in front of the hospital entrance. They wanted to walk into the new building together. That moment and that gesture really made me think, "This is who we are—a team, in every sense of the word."

We have now been in the Anderson Pavilion for almost five months and I have never been more proud of our team. Making this transition has not been easy. On the "move day," our focus was very clear—the safe transport of our fragile patients from one building to the next. And I can honestly tell you that I have never seen a greater sense of commitment. Every single nurse stepped up to face this challenge. Because all the details had been thought out and every step was planned with precision, we were able to provide our young patients a seamless transition.

Our families are raving about our new building. They so appreciate the spacious rooms and the way we combined state-of-the-art technology with whimsical art and play equipment. We have built a nurturing place for our patients to not only heal, but also continue being kids. This magnificent, grand building is our new home and like any new home, it presents us with the challenge of adjusting to a significantly different environment. This is where my pride in each and every one of you comes in. Every day, I see how you're coming together to create new processes and new systems to support each other and to create a more efficient workflow. We are constantly reevaluating our standard practices—is it working in this environment? How do we make it better?

I am so grateful to all of you for your daily problem-solving abilities, for taking on greater responsibilities, for supporting new employees whether they're nurses, residents or technicians. Your "can do" attitude is the reason behind our success. Your compassion and dedication is what gives our families hope. There is no other team I would rather be on.

Huddle Up

by Candace Pearson

When football players huddle on the field, they exchange critical, game-changing information that helps them work better as a team. At Children's Hospital Los Angeles, nurses do the same, thanks to daily Unit Huddles that started in 6North and have now spread hospital-wide.

Huddles work basically like this: the incoming shift gathers in one room to hear anything they need to know to do their jobs more efficiently: patient conditions and transfers, staff changes and introductions, safety announcements and more. All in five minutes or less.

"In a huddle, you only have to say something once and everyone hears it," says **Phan Dang**, RN, education manager on 6North, who first introduced huddles to her own unit in 2008. "It's an effective way to increase teamwork and communication, and it doesn't cost a dime."

Dang presented Unit Huddles to the Patient Care Services' Clinical Practice Council and then to the House of Representatives, which voted in January 2011 to bring the concept to all departments.

Huddles take place twice daily in most units, at shift change, 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Many units have



6North Unit Huddle

adapted the concept to their needs, starting earlier or later.

In the fast-paced Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), morning huddles are led by the night charge nurse, evening huddles by the day charge nurse—the opposite of 6North. "It gives you a good sense of what the patients and families went through," says **Susan Crandall**, RN, BSN, who splits her time between the PICU and her job as co-manager of the Magnet Program.

Crandall is a big fan of huddles. "They make all the difference between facing the shift ahead as an individual or facing it as a team. Instead of being in your own little world, you're now part of the bigger picture."

For the Cardiac Clinic, the huddle provides welcome face-to-face contact among its three subunits: the Cardiac Outpatient Clinic, Catheterization Lab and

Echocardiography Department. "We all work as one big family but we're separate entities, too," says outpatient nurse **Kelli Anderson**, RN, BSN. "Unless we huddle in the morning, we might not see each other all day."

Their huddles take place at 9 a.m., to allow all non-medical staff to join in. Hearing announcements as a group streamlines the day. "Every piece of information helps save you time," says Anderson.

Dang presented a poster session on huddles with **Gloria Verret**, RN, CPN, 6West, at the University of Pennsylvania 8th Annual National Patient Safety Conference in November and will present at the Society of Pediatric Nurses Conference in Dallas, in April 2012—as Children's Hospital nurses spread the word of another best practice.

Getting to Know ... Catheterization Lab Nurses



(L-R) Mollie Mullaney, RN, Kelli Anderson, RN, Laurie Fry, RN

The two cardiac catheterization laboratories at Children's Hospital Los Angeles provide a wide range of diagnostic and interventional procedures. The three nurse specialists who work exclusively in the cath labs are **Kelli Anderson**, RN, **Laurie Fry**, RN, and **Mollie Mullaney**, RN. These nurses work directly with the patients providing them and their families a

comprehensive overview of procedures, processing patients through Surgical Admitting, administering sedation when necessary, monitoring them and providing continuous collaboration to the cardiologist and other physicians involved in the procedure. The nurses also follow up with each patient to answer any questions and to ensure proper recovery.

Children's Hospital Los Angeles operates the largest pediatric cardiology program in the western United States. The hospital's cath labs perform more than 700 procedures annually on patients ranging from newborn babies to young adults. The majority of procedures are on patients with congenital heart defects. Treatments include closure of septal defects, dilation of restrictive valves and arteries and closure of abnormal vessels. Other frequent procedures include ablation of abnormal pathways causing arrhythmias of the heart as well as implants of pacemakers or defibrillators.

"Our nurses have an extensive background in pediatric cardiology, intensive and critical care," explains **Sharon Wagner-Lees**, RN, clinical manager for the cath labs. "They are an integral part of a highly specialized team of experts including cardiologists and anesthesiologists."

Flo Sheet Chronicles

PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES

Monica Horn, RN, (Cardiothoracic Transplant) was a speaker and the panel chair of a lung transplantation session, "The World of Transplantation: Exploring the Options" at the Cardiothoracic Pulmonary Hypertension Association Resource Network Symposium in Arlington, Va., in September 2011.

Nancy Blake, RN, (Critical Care Services) has been appointed to be the Healthy Work Environment section editor for the *American Association of Critical Care Nurses Advanced* magazine. She had a poster presentation, "Relationship between Communication, Collaboration and Leadership and Patient Outcomes in the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit," at the International Nursing Administration Research Conference in Denver, in October 2011.

Raulin Feria, RN, (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) is the Ambassador of American Association of Critical Care Nurses to promote professional excellence through certification and continuing education.

Liz Daley, RN, and **Lucy Dautrich**, RN, (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) had a poster presentation, "Implementing a Unit-Based Continuing Education Program after RN Residency," at the 7th Annual Versant Client Conference in New Orleans, in November 2011.

Edahline Salas, RN, and **Jessica Klaristenfeld**, RN, (Versant RN Residency) had a podium presentation, "Housing Collective Efforts and Accountability: How to Creatively Promote Desired Staff Behaviors," at the National Nursing Staff Development Organization's annual convention in Chicago, in July 2011.

Jen Huson, NP, (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) was awarded the Cherokee Inspired Comfort Award in October 2011.

Sandra Watcher Mintz, RN, (Rheumatology) was a facilitator for the topic "Children and Lupus" at the Day Conference "Lupus Update" at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, in September 2011. She also spoke on "Transition, Self Advocacy and Schools," at the Arthritis Foundation's Arthritis in PrimeTime Symposium in Long Beach, Calif., in October 2011. She presented on "Improving Adherence in the Pediatric Patient," and "Preparing for Transition from Day One of Diagnosis to Adult Care," at the American College of Rheumatology/ Association Rheumatology Health Professionals Annual Scientific Meeting in Chicago, in November 2011. She has also been appointed to the organization's Committee on Education and liaison to the E-learning Sub-committee for 2011-2012.

The following nurses presented at the Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses 35th Annual National Conference in Anaheim, Calif., in September 2011: **Rita Secola**, RN, **Peggy Townsend**, RN, **Renna Killen**, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) had a poster presentation on "Unit-Based Care for Stem Cell Transplant Patients Requiring Non-invasive Ventilator Assistance." **Maki Okada**, RN, **Kasey Rangan**, RN, **Yael Rosenthal**, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) had a poster presentation on the "Initial Experience with a Dedicated Follow-up Program for Adult Survivors of Childhood Cancer: A Joint Initiative of Children's Hospital Los Angeles and Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center." **Susan Carson**, NP, (Thalassemia & Chronic Transfusion Program) was a general session speaker on "The 411 on Hematology." Susan also presented, "Clinical Implications of Iron Overload," at the National Meeting of American Association of Blood Bankers in San Diego, in October 2011.

Maria Velasco, RN, and **Peggy Townsend**, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) had a poster presentation, "Empowering Hematology-Oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant Nurses to Become Shared Governance Leaders," at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh of UPMC in Pittsburgh, in October 2011. **Rita Secola**, RN, and **Peggy Townsend**, RN, also presented a poster on "Creating a Positive 'Floating' Experience for Hematology-Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant Nurses."

Kathy Pecenka Johnson, RN, is the hospital's new Access Center Director.

Going the Extra Mile (GEM award) recipients for 2011: **Grace Ruiz**, RN, (CV Acute); **Beth Harrison**, RN, (Surgery); **Alabel Costa**, RN, (Emergency Department); **Patricia Rodriguez**, NP, (Surgical Admitting).

David Davis, RN, and **Suzanne Taylor**, RN, (Patient Care Services) presented, "A Multidisciplinary Approach to Collaborative Governance: Are All the Voices Heard?" at the American Nurses Credentialing Center's National Magnet Conference in Baltimore, in October 2011. David also won "The Essence of Nursing Designation" by *Advance for Nurses* magazine in August 2011. He was one of five nurses selected in the western United States region.

Susan Santner, RN, (5East) won the first Mary Rose Castleforte Leadership Award in October 2011 at Children's Hospital Los Angeles to honor the work of the nurse managers.

Susan Hunt, RN, (Magik Pain Service) attended a Purdue Investigator Meeting in July 2011 in Boston for an investigational drug study involving Oxycontin used in children between the ages of 6-16. She is the co-investigator in the drug trial.

Debbie Jury, RN, (Magik Pain Service) taught a course on "Blocking Pain Pathways through Neuraxial Techniques" to the Versant RN Residency Program in Sept 2011 and taught a class on "Complementary Alternative Medicine: Using Nerve Blocks Instead of Opioids for Treatment of Pediatric Pain" during the Liatus Education Day in Los Angeles, in October 2011.

Kathy Ruccione, RN, (HOPE Program) received funding from the St. Baldrick's Foundation, DAISY Foundation and Concern Foundation for her research project: "Transfusional Iron, Anthracyclines and Cardiac Outcomes Among Childhood Cancer Survivors." Kathy also made two presentations at the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association Clinical Practice Forum in Pittsburgh, in September 2011 on "Cancer Survivorship Across the Lifespan: Emerging Issues and Trends" and "Transforming Cancer Care: Early Integration of Palliative Care."

Nurses Week National Finalists for this year are **Kathleen McIntyre**, RN, (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) in the Clinical Care category; **Colleene Young**, RN, (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) in the Mentoring category; **Rita Secola**, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) in the Advancing the Profession category.

Nancy Pike, RN, (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) presented, "Transposition of the Great Arteries: Comprehensive Overview" and "Where We Are Now and Where We Are Going: VADs in Children" at the Pediatric Critical Care Nursing Cardiology Pre-Conference by Contemporary Forums in Las Vegas, in October 2011. Her article, "Quality of Life, Health Status, and Depression: Comparison between Adolescent/Adults after the Fontan Procedure with Healthy Counterparts" was published in the *Journal of Cardiovascular Nursing* in September 2011.

Taeree Kim, RN, (6West) contributed a scientific illustration for a study on sodium-calcium exchanges in the cortices of Alzheimer's disease patients, published in *Cell Calcium* in April 2011.

Flora Yuen, RN, (6East) had a poster presentation, "The Implementation of a Pediatric Early Warning Score," at the Society of Pediatric Nurses Annual Conference in Las Vegas, in April 2011.

Sheila Kun, RN, (Pulmonology) had a poster presentation, "Hospital Readmissions for Newly Discharged Home Mechanical Ventilator Pediatric Patients," at the International American Thoracic Society Conference in Denver, in May 2011.

Mary Dee Hacker, RN, (vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer) was appointed to the Board of Directors of the California Institute for Nursing and Healthcare in August 2011. She also presented, "The DAISY Award: Capturing the Essence of Extraordinary Nurses with Meaningful Recognition," at the 2011 ANCC National Magnet Conference in Baltimore, in October 2011.

Academic Degrees

Nicole Bledsoe, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – BSN

Oneida Ilog, RN, (CV Acute) – MSN

Libertad Garcia, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – BSN

Desiree Ritter, RN, (House Supervisor) – MHA

Margherita Toscano Payan, RN, (Post Anesthesia Care Unit) – MSN/FNP

Daisy Award Recipients

Jason Vargas, RN, (Post Anesthesia Care Unit) – June

Jennifer Hudson, RN, (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) – August

Gloria Verret, RN, (6West) – September
Myrna Anotado, RN, (Operating Room) – October

Promotions and Certifications

Dixie Chellev, RN, and **Tamara Aragon**, RN, (6West) – promoted to night shift lead
Jesi Bernardo, RN, **Zulema Vega**, RN, (6West) – promoted to day shift lead

Marlene Cox, RN, (5West) – CPN

Karen Rivas, RN, (6West) – CPN

Monica Ciccarelli, RN, (6West) – CPN

Taeree Kim, RN, (6West) – CPN

Tiffany Allen, RN, (6West) – CPN

Elizabeth Zlotorinsky, RN, (6West) – CPN

Ronit Lavian, RN, (6West) – CPN

Laura DuFour, RN, (Emergency Department) – CPN

Monique Gateley, RN, (Emergency Department) – CPN

Sarah Meyer, RN, (Emergency Department) – CPN

Ruth Klinsky, RN, (Float Pool) – CPN

Deann Dover, RN, (House Supervisor) – CPN

Melissa Simpson, RN, (IV Team) – CPN

Lindsay Gamache, RN, (Neonatal and Infant Critical Care Unit) – CPN

Adam Brenneman, RN, (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) – CCRN

Meredith Blackburn, RN, (Pediatric Intensive Care Unit) – CCRN

Patricia Rodriguez, NP, (Surgical Admitting) – NP

Terri Stambaugh, RN, (Emergency Transport) – National Certification Corporation Neonatal Pediatric Transport

Marifel Pagkalinawan, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – CPHON

Meghan Meehan, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – CPHON

Diane Altounji, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – CPHON

Melissa Aguirre, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – CPHON

Michelle Castle, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – CPHON

Cara Wise, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – CPHON

Anna Evans, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – CPHON

Rod Lopez, RN, (Operating Room) – CNOR

Katharina Becker, RN, (Operating Room) – CNOR

Patricia Rodriguez, RN, (Surgical Admitting) – PNP

Andrea Valicoff (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) – RN III

Tina Patterson (Day Hospital) – RN III

LIFE CELEBRATIONS

Babies

Kristina Brown, RN, (Bone Marrow Transplant) – boy
Melissa Callaghan, CRNA, (Ambulatory Surgery Center) – girl

Natalie Degnan, RN, (Operating Room) – girl

Ivy Dolinski, RN, (5East) – girl

Jamie Duly, RN, (6West) – girl

Sally Gubbins, CRNA, (Ambulatory Surgery Center) – girl

Irene Hombrebueno, RN, (5East) – boy

Judy Koempel, CRNA, (Ambulatory Surgery Center) – boy

Alisa Nelson, RN, (Neonatal and Infant Critical Care Unit) – girl

Patricia Rodriguez, NP, (Surgical Admitting) – boy

Yael Rosenthal, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) – girl

Mary Jane Tantoco, RN, (6West) – girl

Lauren Webb, RN, (Ambulatory Surgery Center) – girl

Sophia Bjurhall-Zavala, RN, (5West) – girl

Marriages

Sarah Brodhead, RN, (6West)

Jenny Kim Halili, RN, (6West)

Taeree Kim, RN, (6West)

Dannielle Seluta, RN, (Bone Marrow Transplant)

Meghan Stumbo, RN, (5East)

Crystal Uy, RN, (Float Pool)

Community Involvement

Stana Bogoevic, RN, (CVC Nurse Consultant) and

Rosalind Grushkin, RN, (Hematology-Oncology) completed the 26.6 mile Ultimate Hike in Big Bear, Calif., in October 2011 in 12.5 hours raising \$20,000 for Children's Cancer Cure Search.

6West's team, Guts and Glory, raised more than \$10,000 for the Children's Hospital Los Angeles "Walk for Kids" in April 2011.

IN MEMORY

Corina Hall, Patient Care Service Aide, (6East) died in October 2011. She had worked on 6East since joining Children's Hospital Los Angeles in 2001. She was a dedicated employee who was regarded for her enthusiasm and positive attitude.

FloSheet

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Los Angeles, CA
Permit No. 22460

Turn on the Lights 5K Walk/Street Party and Dream for Kids Gala Celebrates the Opening of the Anderson Pavilion



CHLA nurses join the 5K Walk/Street Party



(L-R) Rich Cordova, chief executive officer, Melanie Griffith, Heidi Klum, Jamie Lee Curtis, and DeAnn Marshall, vice president and chief marketing and communications officer, at the 5K/Street Party



(L-R) Nicole Ainsworth, RN, Billy Crystal, Julie Applegate, RN, Chris Albrecht, Marilyn Deforest, RN, and Marion Anderson at the Gala



(L-R) Carol Taketomo, RN, Rita Secola, RN, Suzanne Taylor, RN, Barbara Gross, RN, Mary Dee Hacker, RN, Randy Cook, RN, Nancy Blake, RN, and David Davis, RN, at the Gala

