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Extra-CHLA: LIVES OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

An Unforgettable Trip

by Vicki Cho Estrada

It's not everyday you're invited to take a 17-day tour of China as guests of the Chinese government. So when **Timothy Fish, RN, MBA**, was presented with an opportunity to attend a traveling seminar in China, he jumped at the chance.

Fish, patient care services manager at Childrens Hospital, was an MBA student at Pepperdine University last year when he learned about the trip from his professor, **LW Gertmenian, Ph.D.**, a former diplomat for China under President Richard Nixon. Dr. Gertmenian, who maintains ties to the Chinese government, arranges traveling seminars to China and Tibet and invited his students on a trip last spring.

What captured Fish's interest was the "opportunity to learn

about an up and coming world power; visit Tibet, which is difficult for Americans to do, and see things normal tourists don't see," he says.

During the trip last April, the group of 12, plus Dr. Gertmenian and an interpreter, visited Qufu, the birthplace of Confucius, and attended seminars on the sage's life, philosophy and influence on modern Chinese culture. They stayed one night in a village outside of Qufu, Liu Jia Chun, considered one of the richest villages in China.

"The village had no indoor plumbing or ovens," Fish says, "but there were satellite TVs and VCRs. I saw a lot of discrepancies."

The group also toured a hospital nearby, where Fish was surprised by the rudimentary conditions. "The emphasis is still on eastern medicine, such as acupuncture and healing sticks. No X-rays, ventilators or MRIs. The most



Timothy Fish, dressed in traditional scholar attire, is surrounded by teaching tablets at a Confucius temple in Qufu.

advanced thing I saw were IV solutions," he says, adding that the group brought medical supplies, including gauze, scissors and scalpels.

Other highlights of the trip included visiting Lhasa, Tibet, climbing Mount Angori in the snow in the Himalaya mountains, sipping yak butter tea with a high-ranking Tibetan priest in his home and discussing the future of Tibet, and getting a briefing in Beijing by an American Embassy officer on China's economic and social policies.

The visit also included typical tourist stops in Shanghai; Tai'an, where Fish climbed 7,200 steps to reach the top of a mountain where emperors built their temples to get closer to heaven, and Chengdu, an area credited with saving pandas from extinction.

"Although it was only 17 days, I felt it was a tremendous introduction to seeing a vast country with a variety of issues," Fish says. "This was one of the richest experiences in my life and I reflect upon it often."

Volunteers IN ACTION

Educating the Community About HIV/AIDS

by Elena F. Epstein



Kescia Gray

Coming face to face with the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS is what keeps **Kescia Gray, RN, BSN** in the Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit, motivated to continue her community work. She was privy to the personal pain caused by this often misunderstood illness, first while in nursing school and volunteering as an HIV/AIDS counselor at the Medical College of Ohio Anonymous HIV/AIDS testing site and again when a fellow church member died from AIDS.

Ten years ago Gray helped develop an HIV/AIDS education committee through her church in Toledo, Ohio – the first of its kind in the city. With the help of fellow committee members, approval from the pastor was secured and they created education guidelines, gathered information packets and began setting up information sessions after services.

"In many ways, the black community is silent about HIV and AIDS, but education is so important especially for the teens," says Gray.

Gray's dedication to this cause is so strong that even when she moved to Los Angeles and began working at Childrens Hospital in

2000, she continued to volunteer with Indiana Avenue Missionary Baptist Church, several times a year. She uses her vacation time to go back to Toledo to help organize and participate in HIV/AIDS education seminars at the church she grew up in. She communicates regularly with the seven-member education committee.

The seminars draw members of the local community and focus on providing straightforward information about HIV and AIDS. Topics include: transmission of the disease, best methods of protection, options available for those with HIV and coping strategies for family members. Each session usually features a guest speaker, such as a physician, someone living with HIV or a social worker, and a question and answer period.

"There are a lot of myths out there," says Gray. "Knowing about safe sex and having the right information is so important in stopping the spread of this disease."

Gray has also participated in two medical missions through her church. The missions were stationed in Cap-Haïtien, Haiti. While volunteering at the clinic, set up in the small village in the northern part of the island, Gray treated patients with conditions such as infections, tumors, parasites, cuts, typhoid fever and HIV/AIDS.

"I really enjoy volunteering," says Gray. "It is so fulfilling to be out there helping others."

Advocating For A Healthier

by Candace Pearson



Phyllis D'Ambra

For **Phyllis D'Ambra**, RN, screening for scoliosis in teens at approximately 250 middle schools a year isn't just part of her job in the Childrens Orthopaedic Center at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, it's her "mission in life."

For the past 27 years, D'Ambra has assisted Los Angeles Unified School District nurses from Lancaster to Lake Elsinore in the screening mandated by the State of California for seventh grade girls and eighth grade boys.

D'Ambra, who visits schools two days a week, finds at least one child a week who needs bracing or surgery, sometimes more. If scoliosis can be identified early enough, bracing works in 85 percent of cases, she says. "This work is so uplifting because you can see the results."

"Phyllis is our hero," says Barbara Bolton, a school nurse with the West Covina School District. "She helped write the book on scoliosis screening for the state of California."

D'Ambra is emblematic of nurses at Childrens Hospital who extend their pediatric expertise to a wider audience through community outreach and advocacy. They routinely volunteer at community health fairs, churches,

community organizations and neighborhood schools, as well as work on multidisciplinary teams to spread the word about health management and lifestyle choices.

"Our nurses are out in the real world, helping to create a healthier community," says **Mary Dee Hacker**, RN, MBA, vice president of Patient Care Services and chief nursing officer. "Their role reflects our hospital's mission to advocate for the health and well-being of children and adolescents."

Hacker herself organizes a yearly "Hospital Day" at a local kindergarten that her daughter, now 24, once attended. Wearing scrubs and toting hospital-gowned dolls, she talks to the children about being healthy.

Invaluable Lessons

For **Inge Morton**, RN, CPN, education manager in the Emergency Department, and a team of fellow nurses, one project – "Every 15 Minutes" at Calabasas High School – took on a somber tone.

The nationwide program – named for how frequently someone dies in a drunk driving

incident in the United States – centers on a simulated, alcohol-related traffic collision involving teens, parents, firefighters, police and medical personnel. The goal: to raise awareness about driving under the influence.

The Childrens Hospital volunteers treated the "injured" student participants in the 2005 event, led by **Alan Nager**, MD, head of the Division of Emergency and Transport Medicine, and assistant professor of pediatrics at USC's Keck School of Medicine. Although everyone was aware the event was simulated, "parents and students go through the true emotions," says Morton.

Also participating from the Emergency Department were **David Kruger**, RN, operations manager; **Joanne Barraras**, RN; **Phaedra Nguyen**, RN; **Kristi Westphaln**, RN; and, from the Transport Team, **Geri Gregorczyk**, RN.

"This program is so true to our everyday realities," says Morton, "with trauma the leading cause of death in pediatrics – more than all other causes combined."



Members of the Emergency Department during a simulated drunk-driving awareness program

Teen Health

Teen health issues also have been a priority for the past two decades for **Susan Rabinovitz**, RN, MPH, associate director of programs and services in the Division of Adolescent Medicine.



Susan Rabinovitz

She brings a nursing perspective to its varied services, whether aimed at reducing teen birthrates, dealing with HIV or promoting healthier choices. A former school nurse, Rabinovitz says that experience "fueled my passion for designing programs that increase access to care for kids and families."

That includes homeless and runaway youth, which the Division serves through its innovative High-Risk Youth Program. Twice a week, **Marilyn Harris**, RN, CPNP, and **Nanora Thompson**, RN, CPNP, spend a day, with a social worker, visiting teens at drop-in centers and shelters. The nurse practitioners work on alternate days in the Teen Clinic at the Los Angeles Free Clinic (LAFC) Hollywood site, which the Division runs in partnership with LAFC.

"Most of these kids are flying way under the radar," says Thompson. "We have to go where they go." Often too old for foster care, the teens come to the drop-in centers for showers, food, laundry, socializing – and basic

Community

community

health care. Some kids check in with the nurses “just to have someone to talk to who knows who they are,” she adds.

Thompson and Harris treat a range of problems, from colds and flu to the consequences of substance abuse. Thompson gains a huge satisfaction from the community-based work. “Every encounter I have, I feel I can help these kids in a small way or a big way,” she says. “Keeping kids healthy is going to make our city a better place in general.”

Family Education

In the Division of Hematology/Oncology, **Debbie Harris**, RN, MN, PNP, and her colleagues are reaching out to whole families to build awareness about sickle cell disease (SCD) and increase the pool of antigen-matched blood for children affected by SCD.

local businesses and USC. Many patients with sickle cell disease rely on frequent blood transfusions to decrease the chances of a stroke and other life-threatening complications. Harris and her colleagues are also working with radio and television stations to better educate the community. Harris spoke about sickle cell during an “American Health Journal” segment on KOCE-TV, which airs in Southern California on KOCE-TV, with visibility in Orange and Los Angeles counties, as well as additional reach in Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino counties through a licensing agreement with KVCR-TV, and during the Childrens Miracle Network Television Special on KABC-TV.

In January 2006, the Division co-sponsored a Sickle Cell Family Education Day, in partnership with the Sickle Cell Disease Foundation of California.



Battling sickle cell: (L-R) Susan Gantan, MPH, Trish Peterson, NP, Debbie Harris, RN, Dawn Canada, MSW and Thomas Hofstra, MD

“Living with a potentially life-threatening chronic disease affects the family on many levels,” says Harris, care manager for the Red Cell Defects Program. “When the family has increased knowledge and coping skills, everybody thrives.”

Over the past year, Harris, **Trish Peterson**, RN, MSN, PNP, and the sickle cell task force have worked closely with the blood bank to conduct blood drives coupled with sickle cell education in areas with an ethnically diverse population, including at the FAME church in South-Central Los Angeles,

Held at Childrens Hospital, it featured a faculty of physicians, social workers, health educators and nurses.

In the meantime, Phyllis D’Ambra continues to advocate for spinal health, speaking all over the world about scoliosis. She is working on a committee of nurses and physicians to update California’s screening material. “I can’t imagine doing anything else,” she says.

In thanks, school nurses presented her with a spine to use in her visits. In between trips, it “sits” in her office – testament to a life of service in the community.

BEDSIDE'S Best

One-of-a-Kind Skin Management Expert

by Vicki Cho Estrada



Beth Harrison

Harrison if patients develop serious skin reactions from their treatment.

“It’s not uncommon for patients to develop skin problems in a hospital,” she says, adding that typical skin ailments include pressure ulcers in immobile patients, burns from infiltrating IVs and “wicked” diaper rash caused by severe diarrhea. “My approach is to help wounds heal quickly with the least amount of pain and scarring.”

Many of the 10 to 20 patients Harrison sees daily have ostomies – surgical construction of an artificial excretory opening – or suffer from urinary and fecal incontinence. In addition to treating their wounds, she teaches them how to use diverted urinary or fecal ostomies so they go home being more self-sufficient.

Harrison, who received her BSN degree from Georgetown University and MSN degree from Cal State Los Angeles, joined CHLA in 1976 as a primary care nurse, but has focused on skin management for the past 25 years.

“What I really love about my job is that it’s autonomous. I also love giving patients and staff the tools they need to help manage skin conditions,” says Harrison, who teaches classes on skin care management to CHLA’s RN Residency in Pediatrics graduates and others.

For her outstanding work, Harrison was awarded a 1984 Morris and Mary Press Humanism Award and a 2006 DAISY Award for Extraordinary Nurses – becoming the first CHLA nurse to win both awards.

“Beth has a tremendous capacity to accomplish good things for our patients,” according to **Donald Shaul**, MD, attending surgeon in pediatric surgery and urology, and associate professor of clinical surgery at USC’s Keck School of Medicine. “She can rapidly determine what a family needs, not just what the patient needs. She is what CHLA is all about.”

Harrison downplays the awards and accolades and says the rewards of her job have kept her at CHLA. “Every child we put back together and send on the road is going to have lots of opportunities. That’s a good feeling.”

With coat pockets loaded with scissors, tweezers and a supply of ointments, alcohol and wound dressing packets, **Beth Harrison** can be found treating patients in any number of places – from the surgery and hematology-oncology, orthopedic and spina bifida outpatient clinics to any of the inpatient nursing units. That’s because her patients are everywhere at Childrens Hospital.

Harrison, RN, MSN, CWOCN, a nurse consultant for wound ostomy continence in ambulatory care, is the only nurse professional at the hospital dedicated to providing support, care and education on skin management. CHLA nurses and physicians know to call



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

Ever since Florence Nightingale began advocating a major overhaul of military care during the Crimean War, nurses have served as passionate voices for the well being of their patients.

Childrens Hospital nurses are a shining example of this passionate voice. Our nurses' professional roles are by no means confined to the walls of this hospital. They are out in the community spreading the word about good health and the proper management of often misunderstood illnesses. Their expertise reaches out to hundreds of local schools and community organizations. For the last two years, for example, the advanced practice nurses at Childrens Hospital have hosted a national conference in association with Southern California's chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners. Last year more than 70 advanced practice nurses were in attendance, including many community pediatric nurse practitioners and school nurses. Topics included pain management, heart murmurs, pediatric surgery. In this issue of *Flo Sheet*, you will read about several other examples of our nurses' involvement with the community.

One of my favorite places to visit each year is a local kindergarten class. I put on scrubs and take Cabbage Patch dolls dressed in hospital gowns. The kids practice giving the dolls shots with needleless syringes. I put finger casts on the kids and let them listen to their hearts and lungs through a stethoscope. I absolutely love this day because I get to be with these kids who are so full of curiosity and enthusiasm. They ask the most wonderful questions and they are just so happy to learn something new.

The love of learning is a part of the fabric of our hospital. As you'll see in our "Model of Care," the team of nurses who gathered to define and describe this model created a visual of building blocks. Each block represents the essence of our work at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. The continuous circle represents our ongoing commitment to learn and teach, to provide service and to improve and sustain quality in our practice. This is who we are and it is what we do.

A Future with Possibilities

by Vicki Cho Estrada

Imagine a future where all people, including those living with developmental disabilities, are fully integrated and participating members of their communities. That's the goal behind USC's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles (USC UCEDD at CHLA).

The center works with children and adults with disabilities – including those with Down Syndrome, autism and cerebral palsy – as well as family members, government agencies, and community providers in projects that provide training, assistance, research and information sharing, with a focus on building the capacity of communities to support all their citizens.

Originally funded in 1966, the center is one of over 60 UCEDDs in the nation and one of three in the state. The center operates out of two Los Angeles locations with approximately 100 employees and receives federal, state and local funding.

"We are one of the largest centers in the country," according to **Cecily Betz, PhD, RN, FAAN**, director of nursing training and research at USC UCEDD at CHLA. "We provide an enormous amount of direct services and community programs, mostly to pediatric patients and their families."

Betz trains graduate-level and advanced practice nurses in the specialized field of developmental disabilities and special health care needs, works with community organizations on programs for individuals with disabilities and conducts a number of research projects.



(L-R) Cecily Betz and Kathryn Smith

One project involves recruiting 70 spina bifida patients from CHLA and evaluating their transition to adulthood.

"Many youths who have chronic conditions are ill prepared for adulthood," says Betz, who also serves as editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Pediatric Nursing*, the official journal of the Society of Pediatric Nurses and Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society. "Research shows they have high rates of unemployment and a lower quality of life. We want to look at the effectiveness of intervention programs to effect improved outcomes."

Working with Betz on the project is **Kathryn Smith, RN, MN**, associate director of nursing training at the center and visiting assistant professor of clinical pediatrics at USC's Keck School

of Medicine. Smith is also working on another research project with CHLA spina bifida patients to help improve bowel and bladder incontinence problems.

"Social continence is a significant factor in estimating the quality of life for children with spina bifida and their families," Smith says. "A child who has spina bifida is at risk for teasing, feeling self-conscious about their bodies and physical appearance, and social isolation."

"Partnering with Childrens Hospital helps the center achieve its goals," says Betz. "Hopefully, through the direct and indirect services and activities we provide, we can help improve the lives of children and adults with developmental disabilities."



Gift of Knowledge

Cathy Goodhue (left), CPNP, research nurse coordinator in the Division of Medical Genetics and **Melissa Reider-Demer**, CPNP in the Division of Neurology organized the collection of medical and nursing books and journals for the United States military to distribute to universities and medical providers in Iraq. They collected eight boxes, weighing 425 pounds, which they donated in February 2007.

PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES:

Rita Secola, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) was selected as a finalist in the 2006 Best Nurse Leader Award, sponsored by *ADVANCE for Nurses Magazine*. She was featured, along with the other nominees, in the October 30, 2006 issue.

Laura Klee, RN (Critical Care Services) was a finalist for the *NurseWeek Magazine* Excellence Awards.

Edahrline Salas, RN, is the new curriculum coordinator for the RN Residency in Pediatrics Program.

Debbie Reid, RN (4 East) received the "Outstanding Member of the Year" award at the Organization of Healthcare Educators installation lunch on January 26, 2007. She is also the organization's secretary.

Suzie Reinsvold, RN (Versant Advantage, Inc.) was named the 2007 recipient of the Association of California Nurse Leaders' (ACNL) Excellence in Advancement of Clinical Practice Award. Presented by ACNL at its 29th annual meeting in San Diego, the excellence award is given to a nurse leader who has made a significant contribution in areas of nursing that support program development, education, research or the strategic direction of ACNL.

Meghan Middleton, RN is now a pain management nurse consultant with The Magik Pain Service.

Congratulations to the following RNs who received their BSN through the hospital's Cal State Program:

Debra Balise, Trauma Program
Alejandra Briseno, Pediatric Intensive Care
Linda Camacho, 6 North
Lizzele Dulay, 4 West
Julie Joaquin, 5 West
Feri Kiani, Pediatric Intensive Care
Jenifer Meyers, Emergency Transport
Carlos Pena, Cardiothoracic Intensive Care
Garineh Petrosian, Pediatric Intensive Care
Lisa Rogers, Pediatric Intensive Care
Sheleen Tolentino, Operating Room
Karin Tuan, Operating Room
Sonya Williams, 4 East

Zerlina Webb, LVN (6 North) completed the RN program at West Coast University.

Corina Rico, RN (6 North) is the recipient of the Louise Held Nursing Award. She will receive a \$2,500 grant for up to five years. She is one of 20 awardees selected from top applicants graduating with BSN degrees.

Karla Haynes, RN, began working as a nurse practitioner for the Craniofacial Center in December 2006.

Connie Gallardo, RN (Magik Pain Service) gave a lecture, "Pediatric Pain Assessment and Management: Ambulatory and Hospitalized Child," at the UCLA Graduate Nurse Practitioner & Clinical Nurse Specialist Student Program on January 10, 2007.

Cathy Goodhue, RN (Medical Genetics) gave a lecture, "Genetics and the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner" at UCLA School of Nursing on January 17, 2007.

Debra A. Balise, RN (Trauma Program) was awarded a scholarship from the Association of California Nurse Leaders for her Masters in Nursing program at CSUF at the ACNL National Conference in San Diego on February 6, 2007.

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles, and its efforts to improve the quality of pediatric trauma and critical care, were recognized with a Consumer Health World (CHW) Award at a special ceremony at the organization's annual meeting in Washington, D.C. on

December 12, 2006. The program, entitled "Using Public Surveillance Systems to Advance Pediatric Trauma Critical Care," was authored by **Elizabeth Ferguson**, RN (Anesthesiology Critical Care Medicine), **Theresa M. Dunaway**, RN (Clinical Immunology and Allergy) and **Christy L. Beaudin**, PhD, the hospital's new vice president and chief quality officer.

Inge Morton, RN (Emergency Department) is quoted in the article, "Many Children at High Risk for Septic Shock: Follow These Steps," published in the January 2007 issue of *ED Nursing*.

Crystal Bennett, RN (Research, Outcomes and Regulations in Patient Care Services) has been selected to serve on the editorial advisory board of *ADVANCE for Nurses Magazine*.

Data collected by the Newborn and Infant Critical Care Unit was recognized in the January 2007 issue of *Pediatrics* in the article, "Revalidation of the Score for Neonatal Acute Physiology in the Vermont Oxford Network."

Linda Burkett, RN (Center for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism) was interviewed by *ADVANCE for Nurses Magazine* for a story about precocious puberty in girls.

William Kenny, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) was featured in *ADVANCE for Nurses Magazine* on November 13, 2006.

Melissa Reider-Demer, PNP (Neurology) was the co-author for the neurology chapter for the 4th edition of the *Pediatric Primary Care: A Handbook for Nurse Practitioners*. She was the first author for the article "The Evolving Responsibilities of the Pediatric Nurse Practitioner" published in the *Journal of Pediatric Health Care* in August 2006. She headed the "outcomes" measurement pilot survey conducted in March 2007 among the hospital's PNP's.

Congratulations to the following Daisy Award recipients:

Gene Lee, RN (Operating Room) – October 2006
Beth Harrison, RN (Ostomy) – November 2006
Connie Gallardo, RN (Magik Pain Service) – December 2006
Louise Brancale, RN (Endocrinology) – January 2007

Debbie Jury, RN (Magik Pain Service) was acknowledged in the October 2006 issue of *Pediatrics* for her important contributions in coordinating and collecting data for Childrens Hospital during a multi-center observational study on assessing postoperative pain in neonates.

Vice President and CNO **Mary Dee Hacker**, RN, presented "Nursing...The Next Decade" at Organization of Health Care Educators on January 26, 2007. She was appointed to The DAISY Foundation board of directors and to the *NurseWeek* regional advisory board. She gave the address at the Loma Linda RN Residency in Pediatrics (Versant) graduation on December 13, 2006.

Congratulations to the following promoted to Lead RN:

Flora Yuen, **LaVonda Hoover**, **Phyllis Dickens**, **Donna McRae** (6 East); **Jennifer Bulatao**, **Kay Gilmore**, **Juni Song**, **Aileen Yanga DeGuzman** (6 West); **Yolanda Amador**, **Lita Reyes** (6 North).

Congratulations to the following promotions and certifications:

Patricia Godoy-Travieso (Emergency Department) – RN III
Kimberly Kyle (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RN III
Lydia Arreola (Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RN III

Monica Grover (4 West) – RN III
Staci Castillo (4 East) – RN III
Denise Jones (Day Hospital) – RN III
Stephanie Brady (6 West) – RN IV

Tracy Kruger, RN (4 East) – CPON
Jennifer Huson, RN (5 West/ 2 East) – CPNP
Corinne Costley, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN
Catherine Klattzer, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN
Heidi Geary, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN
Susy Sweeney, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN
Colleene Young, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN
Pacita Sangalang, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) – CCRN

Pattie Soltero, RN (6 North) wrote a CE article, "Pediatric Asthma Management," published in the February 9, 2007 issue of *ADVANCE for Nurses Magazine*. She spoke about pediatric asthma during the February 16, 2007 Society of Pediatric Nurses, LA chapter conference.

House Supervisor **Kathleen Stevenson**, RN, spoke on, "Managing a Pandemic in Pediatric Patients," during the February 16, 2007 Society of Pediatric Nurses, LA chapter conference.

The following RNs were on the planning committee for the Los Angeles chapter of the Society of Pediatric Nurses Annual Conference, "Hot Topics in Pediatrics," on February 16, 2007: **Stephanie Brady** (6 East), **Suzanne Diers** (PCS Medical/Surgical Services), **Kathy Kelly** (Float Team), **Lee Lacy** (6 West).

The article on the successful separation of conjoined twins in the previous issue of *Flo Sheet* highlighted the hard work of many nurses. We would like to also thank the nurses of 6 North who provided excellent post-ICU care for the twins.

LIFE CELEBRATIONS:

Grace Kuyumjian, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) completed a two-month medical mission in India.

Ada Santa-Cruz, RN (4 West) recently participated in Global Health Net Mission in Pakistan.

Lesley Holden, RN (Hemodialysis) was a volunteer at the 8th Annual Renal Prom at Notre Dame High School on January 14, 2007. The event is organized by the Renal Support Network, which she has been involved with for many years. She was in charge of the Glamour Touch Up Area, as well as being one of the 60 volunteer drivers who drove more than 300 teens to the prom and back home again.

Cathy Kissinger, RN (6 East) and her husband completed a 10-day, 93-mile backpack trip on the Wonderland trail last summer.

Jukiet Balius, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) – engaged
Christena Lopez, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) – married
Toni Contino, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) – married
Emily Renfro, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) – married

Babies:

Beth Zemetra, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) – boy
Jennifer Trotter, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) – girl
Shannon Overpeck, RN (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care) – boy
Erica Lytton, RN (5 East) – boy
Lisa Lee, RN (Outpatient Hematology-Oncology) – girl
Sheila Kun, RN (Pulmonology) – grandson

Model of Care

During the summer and fall of 2006, a team of Childrens Hospital nurses gathered to define and describe the hospital's Model of Care. The visual representation is the result of many hours of brainstorming, group work and much debate. The building blocks represent what nurses do at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. They capture what is essential in the hospital's nursing practice.

The following are the Model of Care committee members:

Denise Bacall, Newborn and Infant Critical Care

Arnie Banez, 5 West

Pauline Beecroft, nurse researcher

Nancy Blake, Critical Care Services

Sharon Chinn, Family Centered Care Services

Susan Cline, Magnet Program

Norma Corona, Operating Room

Susan Crandall, Pediatric Intensive Care

Suzanne Diers, Medical Services

Vanessa Evangelista, Bone Marrow Transplant

Tim Fish, Ambulatory Care Services

Zoraya Fonseca, 6 West

Julissa Forte, Float Team

Cynthia Garcia, 6 East

Janeen Gaul, Newborn and Infant Critical Care

Amy Girguis, 5 East

Linda Hulse, Pulmonary Clinic

Mary Dee Hacker, vice president/CNO

Janet Jack, Orthopedic Clinic

Sophia Kim, Radiology

Cathy Kissinger, 6 East

Jessica Klaristenfeld, RN Residency in Pediatrics

Chris Lins, 5 East

Margaux Lozada, Post Anesthesia Care

Judy Maranan, Bone Marrow Transplant

Aileen Maranon, Newborn and Infant

Critical Care

Emelia Mardigian, 5 West

Deborah Marino, 4 East

Cheryl McCauley, 5 West

Renee Lucci Richards, Newborn and Infant

Critical Care

Courtney Rogers, 4 West

Susan Santner, 5 East

Pattie Soltero, 6 North

Suzanne Taylor, PCS Staff Development

Kristi Westphaln, 6 East



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