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International Leader in Pediatrics

# FloSheet

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## Extra-CHLA: LIVES OUTSIDE THE HOSPITAL

### PICU Book Club: Food for Thought

by Candace Pearson

The Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles has more than its share of dramatic stories, with cliffhangers, crises and happy endings on a daily basis. Some of its staff members have found a way to escape the high-intensity environment by exploring other worlds in a monthly book club.

Participants meet in each other's homes, with attendance ranging from several people to as many as 15. "The book club is a great way to relax and see each other outside the work environment," says **Alisa Rubin**, RN, club chair.

On the group's reading list: primarily best sellers, past and present, and some non-fiction.

Usually, the members decide together about what to read, favoring books with enough substance and style to inspire a spirited discussion. A few times, they've even combined a novel with the movie made from it, such as "Memoirs of a Geisha."

Adding to the fun are the theme dinners that accompany the discussion. For "The Da Vinci Code," the members ate – what else? – Italian food. To complement the memoir, "Running with Scissors," the evening's spread featured fast food, which figures prominently in the book.

**Fran Blayney**, RN, a PICU manager, served vegetable lasagna and gave tomato plants as favors for a discussion of "Marley & Me: Life and Love With the World's Worst Dog," whose author also is a gardening magazine

editor. "Sometimes the connection between the theme and the book is a stretch, but it's always fun," says Blayney.

For her and others, the club is an impetus to discover books beyond their usual fare. "I love to read, and this widens my choices," Blayney says. Other regular book club members include: **Teri Loera**, RN, operations manager; **Janet Waugh**, RN; **Jen Huson**, RN; **Melessa Sumich**, RN; **Paola McClain**, RN; **Linda Topper**, RN.

As a teenager, Rubin enjoyed authors Stephen King and John Grisham. "Now I read all kinds of books and writing styles," says the 20-year PICU nurse who began the book club. "I enjoy learning about different aspects of life." Among her recommended reading: "The Lovely Bones" by



Alisa Rubin

Alice Sebold; "My Sister's Keeper" by Jodi Picoult; "Night," by Elie Wiesel; and "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan," by Lisa See.

Staff members from throughout the hospital are welcome at meetings. Upcoming dates are posted in the PICU.

## Volunteers IN ACTION

### Creating Miracles for Children

by Candace Pearson



Jennifer Ard

On a medical mission deep in the Amazon rainforest this spring, operating room nurse **Jennifer Ard**, RN, found herself newly admiring the fellow professionals she'd traveled with to bring medical aid to the children of Ecuador.

"It's great to do these missions with people I work with at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles – people I trust," says Ard, specialty leader for the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. "You see everybody's

skills in a different context. We worked amazingly well as one cohesive team."

The trip was only the second undertaken by Milagros Para Niños Foundation – Miracles for Children – which Ard founded in 2005 with the goal of providing health professionals with a forum to plan and fund medical missions.

Its initial trip to Etelí, Nicaragua, in March, included ophthalmologist **Jonathan Song**, MD, and focused on much-needed eye surgeries and screening for children.

Dr. Song first suggested that Ard start her own foundation in 2004, when both were on a mission to Nicaragua for another non-profit. After a lot of paperwork, Milagros Para Niños was incorporated by the State of California and granted non-profit status by the Internal Revenue Service in February 2005. "It's been a great journey," says Ard. "I'm incredibly lucky and honored to use my knowledge and resources."

In April, the team in Tena, Ecuador, performed 67 surgeries in four days at a small local hospital, repairing cleft lips and palates, burn scars, hernias and more. The trip won the support of the Ecuadorian government and media.

Participating from Childrens Hospital were **Cathy Shin**, MD, pediatric surgeon; **Marla Matar**, MD, anesthesiologist; **Christian Koch**, MD, anesthesia fellow; **Angela Hartley**, RN; **Jon McKinnon**, RN; **Marisa Baskin**, RN; **Echo Rowles**, surgical technician; and Ard, all from the Operating Room. Also on board: **Tae Ho Kim**, MD, plastic surgeon, formerly of Childrens Hospital, now living in New York. Many donated their own frequent flier miles to get there.

Joining with Milagros Para Niños to make the trip possible were the Centro de Amor Cristiano Church in Newhall and the non-profit Santa Clarita Valley International Program (Santa Clarita is Tena's sister city).

# Sharing Their Knowledge and

by Vicki Cho Estrada



Rita Secola

Halfway through the year, **Rita Secola**, RN, MSN, CPON, logged a few thousand miles flying to such cities as Cleveland, Boston, and Pittsburgh to speak at professional conferences. By year end, she will have added Geneva, Switzerland, and Hartford, Connecticut to her travels.

Secola, clinical manager for Hematology/Oncology and Bone Marrow Transplant, is one of many Childrens Hospital Los Angeles nurses who present posters and abstracts and speak at national and international conferences.

Whether giving a keynote address, serving on a panel, or leading a breakout session, these nurses are leaders in their fields who share their knowledge, insights and expertise to advance the health of children, according to Chief Nursing Officer **Mary Dee Hacker**, RN, MBA, vice president, patient care services.

"I love to see so many of our nurses speaking and presenting papers at professional conferences – it demonstrates our commitment to the profession," Hacker says. "Many of our sister hospitals

have one or two nurse leaders presenting – we have many. It says something positive about the entire nursing department at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles."

Secola has addressed numerous conferences – more than 50 – over her 22-year nursing career. She became more active on the speaking circuit following her election as 2006–2008 president of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses (APON), the leading professional organization for registered nurses caring for children and adolescents with cancer and blood disorders.

"Clearly, being APON president has increased my visibility," says Secola, who has spoken on a

variety of topics, including bi-therapy for pediatric cancers and new treatments for pediatric cancer patients, to as many as 1,000 people at a time. But, she adds, being affiliated with a world-renowned hospital also makes her a sought-after speaker.

"Childrens Hospital is one of the leading hospitals in the country with a wealth of information and ability to care for very complex patients," says **Laura Klee**, RNC, MSN, ECMO coordinator in critical care services, who has participated in four national conferences. "That information needs to be shared."



Laura Klee

This past winter, Klee presented two, 20-minute abstracts at a Childrens National Medical Center symposium: ECMO and Advanced Therapies for Respiratory Failure. Though held in Keystone, Colo., the conference attracted about 600 attendees from around the world due to its international planning committee.

"I got to meet people from ECMO centers in Europe, Canada and Australia," says Klee, who presented data from a Childrens Hospital study on patients who have undergone the heart and lung bypass procedure used to treat cardiac or respiratory failures. "It gives you a different

view of how nursing is done at other countries."

In June, **Mary Baron Nelson**, RN, MS, nurse practitioner and research assistant, Radiology and Anesthesiology, spoke at her first international conference in Niagara-on-Lake, Ontario. Part of a panel addressing transition issues for childhood cancer survivors at the Nursing Conference on Childhood and Adolescent Cancer Survivorship, she presented survey results on long-term, follow-up cancer programs for children.

"It was amazing to have people from every culture and language talk about the same issues," adds Nelson, who has spoken at five national conferences. "There was great discussion about the issues we all struggle with, and it's so good to hear that we are not alone."

While Nelson enjoys speaking at conferences, her least favorite part is getting there, especially if it involves boarding a plane. "I am very fearful of flying," she says. "I try to get someone I know to take the same flights and to sit next to me...but I fly to conferences because I get a lot out of them. Plus, it's a good way to share what we're doing at Childrens Hospital."

**Lori Marshall**, RN, MSN, PhD, who has spoken at three national conferences, will be giving four, 30-minute keynote addresses at two international conferences this fall. In October, she'll be in Australia at the joint meeting of Australian College of Critical Care Nurses and Australia and New Zealand Intensive Care Society. In November, she'll fly back to Australia for a conference with the Women's and Childrens Hospitals of Australasia.

"It feels great to be speaking before an international audience," says Marshall, clinical manager, patient care services, who frequently speaks on teambuilding and teamwork, areas she has spent time researching outside of her hospital duties. "For me, it's like all the hard work I've put in

### There's No Place Like Home

by Candace Pearson



Mary Baron Nelson

becomes recognized by my peers and colleagues.”

In addition to networking, comparing notes about how things are handled at different hospitals, and gaining knowledge and recognition, there are perks to these speaking engagements.

“It’s nice to see different places that you may not ordinarily think

to visit,” says Nelson. “I’ve been to Memphis, St. Louis, Denver, Miami, and Phoenix – all places that I probably would not have seen. You do usually have time to at least go into the city to have dinner and go shopping.”

Klee, an avid skier, was able to hit the slopes while at the Colorado conference. Organized around skiing, the conference was from 7:30 to 10 in the morning, and 4 to 9 at night, “so between 10 and 4, you could do whatever you want,” she says.

Marshall, who loves to travel, is planning to explore the Cadbury Chocolate factory in Hobart, Tasmania, during her Australian trip.

While it sounds great to travel around the globe, these nurses know it takes a lot of time outside their regular duties to prepare for a presentation.

“All of this is pure volunteer,” Secola says, adding it can take a few hours to several days preparing for a presentation. “In general, it’s all very positive. You feel important and appreciated and get to meet great people.”

Nelson adds, “Being in front of an audience and sharing your knowledge makes you feel good about what you do.”



Lori Marshall



Holly Whitworth in 2006

The day after she graduated from nursing school 30 years ago, **Holly Whitworth, RN**, began working in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles.

At that time, the NICU’s patients were swaddled in bassinets and watched over as they gained weight. “It wasn’t anything like it is now,” says Whitworth.

She should know. This March, she returned to the NICU – now called the Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care (CNICC) – after a 12-year

absence. During her time away, she learned more about how families cope with serious illness and what’s needed to help children go home from the hospital.

In 1994, Whitworth, then pregnant with her fourth child, took advantage of the chance to be a stay-at-home mom and left Childrens Hospital. Five years later, with her youngest daughter in school, Whitworth went back to work part-time, then full-time, in residential treatment facilities for children suffering from abuse or mental illness.

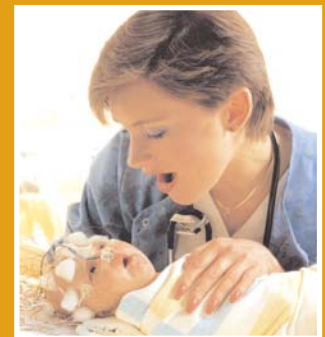
These jobs gave her new insights into psychological issues and coping mechanisms. “But I missed the environment of an acute care facility,” she says.

In June 2004, she rejoined Childrens Hospital as a clinical care coordinator on 5 West and 5 East, focused on discharge planning. When the opportunity opened up this spring to work once more with the babies she loves, she jumped on it.

Even with the changes, the CNICC still feels like home.

She’s adjusting to the prevalence of sophisticated monitors and computers and babies who are now much younger as medical advances have dramatically improved the odds for smaller and sicker babies. What hasn’t changed is the one-on-one care for patients and families. “I enjoy working with parents,” says Whitworth, who’s been buddied up with experienced CNICC nurses. “It’s overwhelming to have a baby with such serious problems.”

Whitworth’s return to the bedside may be challenging at times, but it’s rewarding. “I’m happy to be back,” she says. “In fact, I wish I’d never left.”



Holly Whitworth in 1985

## PROFESSIONAL MILESTONES:

**Suzanne Taylor**, RN (Staff Development) presented "Family-Centered Care: More Than Just a Buzzword?" and "Go to the Head of the Class: Creating Customized Plans to Meet Your Unit's Educational Needs" at the Nursing Care of the Hospitalized Child conference in May 2006 in Las Vegas.

**Susan Carson**, RN (Hematology) spoke on "A Gold Standard: The Nursing Implications of Treating Patients with Iron Overload" at the Southern California Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses conference in Rancho Mirage in May 2006. She also co-chaired the Adult Psychosocial Session at the National Meeting of the Thalassemia Action Group in May 2006 in Las Vegas.

**Jennifer Donkin**, RN and **Kathy McGinty**, RN (Hematology/Oncology) led a panel discussion on sports and Hemophilia entitled, "Getting in the Game," at Staples Center in March 2006.

**Loni Morad**, RN and **Inge Morton**, RN (Emergency Department) made a presentation on "Facial, Chest and Abdominal Trauma" at the National School Nurses Symposium in Manhattan Beach in July 2006.

**Kellie Loera**, RN (4 East) was promoted to clinical manager.

**Debbie Jury**, RN (Pain Management) and **Barbara Britt**, RN (Oncology) **Kathy Ruccione**, RN (HOPE Program) worked with a small multidisciplinary team to submit a proposal for the Aetna Foundation Quality of Care Grant on "End of Life Palliative Care Training."

**Valerie Bock-Pinero**, RN (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) completed her chapter contribution to the *Core Review Neonatal Intensive Care Nursing, 2nd edition*. She is also transferring from education manager to nursing supervisor.

**Connie Gallardo**, RN (Pain Management) had several presentations: "Assessment of Pain in Kids" for LaVerne University's Child Life Student Program; "Boo Boos and Band Aids: Kids and Pain" for the Southern California NAPNAP Conference; "Pediatric Pain Assessment" for the CHLA Pediatric housestaff; "Pediatric Pain Assessment and Management" for the UCLA Graduate Nurse Practitioners and Clinical Nurse Specialist Program.

**Wendy Carr**, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) has received her MSN from University of Phoenix.

**Patty Lainez**, RN (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) has received her MSN with emphasis in Health Care Education from the University of Phoenix and was inducted to Sigma Theta Tau in June 2006.

**Maria Carmen Reyes**, RN (5 East) graduated from Azusa Pacific University with her master's/FNP in June 2006.

**Sue Bugsch**, RN (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) was promoted to education manager.

**Linda Burkett**, RN (Endocrinology) has been elected as secretary for the Pediatric Endocrinology Nursing Society.

**Joyce Derrickson**, RN (Radiology/Oncology) gave the closing keynote address on "The Spirituality of Children: Discovering their Riches" at the Southern California Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses conference in Rancho Mirage in May 2006. She was also awarded the Kathy Ruccione Award for Excellence in Pediatric Oncology Nursing at the conference.

**Dominique DeClerck**, RN (Matched Unrelated Donor Program) went on a two-week medical mission with "Operation Smile" in Bangladesh with her husband Yves DeClerck, MD, in July 2006.

**Kathy Ruccione**, RN (HOPE Program) gave the keynote address on "Journey to Who-Ville: Cancer Biology in the 21st Century" at the Louisville chapter of the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses in June 2006.

**Debbie Harris**, RN (Hematology) coordinated and spoke on pain management during the Sickle Cell Disease Family Symposium held at CHLA on Jan. 21, 2006. She was interviewed for a segment for *American Health Journal* on KOCE-TV in May 2006. She also appeared on the Childrens Miracle Network segment on Sickle Cell Disease on abc7 in June 2006.

**Susan Santner**, RN (5 East) was selected as Childrens Hospital Los Angeles Employee of the Month in May.

**Bobby Hett**, RN (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) was the recipient of the Childrens Hospital Los Angeles Humanism Award.

**Nancy Blake**, RN (Critical Care Services) had book chapters published on the pediatric patient in the adult ICU in the *AACN Core Curriculum for Critical Care* and on pediatric disaster preparedness in the *AACN Core Curriculum for Pediatric Critical Care Nursing*.

**Linda Allen**, RN (5 West); **Julie Jouquin**, RN (5 West); **Denise Sherwood**, RN (Emergency Department); **Kristen Schultz**, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) participated in the CSUF Health Department Rotation and taught parents at day care/preschool facilities how to care for their children's teeth in May 2006.

**Debbie Jury**, RN (Pain Management) had several presentations: "Boo Boos and Band Aids: Kids and Pain" for the Southern California NAPNAP Conference; "Pediatric Pain Game: Analgesic Therapy" and "Acute Pain Management" for Childrens Hospital Los Angeles Pediatric housestaff; "Dogs and Massage: Complementary Pain Therapies" for LaVerne University's Child Life Student Program. She was also interviewed for a segment on pain management for *American Health Journal* on KOCE-TV.

The medical residents selected the Bone Marrow Transplant unit as their "favorite" nursing unit to work with. The BMT RNs were invited to attend the Resident's Dinner on June 9, 2006.

## Congratulations to the following Daisy Award recipients:

**Julia Carlblom**, RN (General Pediatric Service) – January 2006  
**Wanda Russell**, RN (5 West) – February 2006  
**Tina Rufo**, RN (6 East) – March 2006  
**Robin Wood**, RN (Emergency Department) – April 2006  
**Tess Pascua**, RN (Operating Room) – May 2006  
**Sherry Nolan**, RN (5 East) – June 2006

The following 4th floor inpatient nurses will have poster presentations at the annual conference of the National Association of Pediatric Oncology Nursing in Hartford, Connecticut in October 2006: **Rita Secola**, RN and **Stana Fustar**, RN: "A Performance Improvement Project to Reduce the Incidence of Central Venous Catheter-Related Bloodstream Infections;" "The Use of Ethanol-Lock for the Management of Central Venous Catheter-Related Infections." **Debbie Reid**, RN; **Pamela Lewis**, RN; **Kellie Loera**, RN; **Deborah Marino**, RN; **Maria Velasco**, RN: "Development of a Structured "Phased" Competency Assessment Program for New Graduate Nurses in Pediatric Hematology/Oncology."

**Maria Velasco**, RN and **Afshid Roozrokh**, RN: "Discharge Teaching Strategies Used to Overcome Patient and Family Communication, Language or Intellectual Barriers." **Donna Quiroz**, RN; **Shinyi Tang**, RN; **Dawn Landery**, RN; **Mary Moses**, RN: "Primary Nursing Remains Valuable to the Pediatric Bone Marrow Transplant Unit." **Jennifer Blaney**, RN; **Hazel Kolpak**, RN; **Jasmin Uy**, RN: "Understanding Cultural Diversity in the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Population." **Paula Ybarra**, RN; **Laura Vasquez**, RN: "A Patient-Family Education Process for a Newly Diagnosed Child with Cancer or a Blood Disorder." **Marifel Pagkalinawan**, RN; **Teresa Rushing** (Hematology/Oncology pharmacist): "Who Moved My Paper Medication Administration Record: An Institution's Coping Strategy in its Transition to the Electronic-Medication and Administration Record."

**Kristine Mandani**, RN (5 East) is an adjunct professor at Azusa Pacific University.

**Timothy Fish**, RN (Ambulatory/Outpatient Administration) completed his MBA at Pepperdine University in April 2006. He also went to China to attend a seminar at Qufu University in the city of Qufu and received a certificate in Confucius Studies.

**Sheila Kun**, RN (Pulmonology) presented her research study on the "Prevalence, Treatment Modalities and Outcome of Pulmonary Conditions in Children with Cerebral Palsy" during the poster session of the American Thoracic Society International Conference in May 2006 in San Diego.

**Debra A. Balise**, RN (Trauma Program) gave a presentation on "Evidence-Based Practice" to the CHLA Nursing Research Steering Committee in April 2006.

**Fran Blayney**, RN (Pediatric Intensive Care) was the key speaker at the Southern California Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses conference in Rancho Mirage in May 2006.

## Congratulations to the following promotions and certifications:

**Denise Jones**, RN (Hematology/Oncology) – CPON  
**Armi Bui**, RN (Hematology/Oncology) – CPON  
**Judy Sherif**, RN (Emergency Transport) – CPN  
**Lori Chan**, RN (6 North) – CPN  
**Terri Stambaugh**, RN (Emergency Transport) – CPN  
**Suet Sham**, RN (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RNC  
**Vanessa Martinez**, RN (Emergency Department) – CPN  
**Beth Clark**, RN (Emergency Department) – CPN  
**Mayu Yamamoto**, RN (Endocrinology) – CPN  
**Kristine Mandani**, RN (5 East) – CPN  
**Elizabeth Aredas**, RN (4 East) – CPON  
**Renee Flores-Garcia**, RN (4 East) – CPON  
**Afshid Roozrokh**, RN (4 East) – CPON  
**Maria Medina-Velasco** (4 East) – RN IV  
**Melanie Aquerero** (Cardiothoracic Intensive Care Unit) – RN III  
**Carol Cadaver** (Center for Newborn and Infant Critical Care) – RN III  
**Johanna Navia** (4 East) – RN III

## LIFE CELEBRATIONS:

**Judy Maranan**, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) – married  
**Jennifer Trotter**, RN (Bone Marrow Transplant) – married  
**Dominique DeClerck**, RN (Matched Unrelated Donor Program) celebrated her son, Matthieu's, graduation from the Keck School of Medicine at USC.

## Opening Up Her Heart and Home

by Vicki Cho Estrada



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

When I think of our nurses, I not only see their gentle presence and expert knowledge by the bedside of our young patients, but I also see them behind the podium discussing their latest research and sharing their professional knowledge. I see them crisscrossing the globe to bring much needed help to underprivileged and underserved children. Our nurses are not only an integral part of our community, but acknowledged and respected nationally and internationally.

Jennifer Ard and her team of physicians and nurses traveling into the Amazon rainforest to provide medical care to children in the outlying villages demonstrate how a person's determination and compassion can literally change the world. Our distinguished team of nurses, who share their unique expertise with their international colleagues as frequent speakers at workshops and conferences, demonstrate our nurses' professional excellence. As they give a keynote address, serve on a panel, or lead a breakout session, they bring recognition to our hospital and a deep level of commitment to our profession.

The camaraderie of the spirited PICU book club members is an example of the friendships that are formed amongst us. As this group comes together to share their passion for reading, they also gain greater insight about one another, themselves and the bond they share. Tina Rufo's and Holly Whitworth's compassion is evident in the path each nurse has taken. For Holly, the road has brought her back to the bedside of our tiniest, most fragile patients where she began her career 30 years ago. Tina, and her husband, Tom have taken their compassion for children one step further by giving a loving home and family to three amazing youngsters who have touched their hearts in profound ways.

These nurses' contributions to our hospital are priceless. Their energy, spirit, leadership and creativity are the backbone of the great care that we are able to provide our patients and their families.

At the beginning of their young lives, Kayla, Mikey and Hannah were deemed "medically fragile" foster children.

Kayla suffered from gastrointestinal problems and seizures. Mikey wasn't expected to live past six months due to numerous health ailments, including spinal anomalies, severe scoliosis and a non-functioning lung. And Hannah, withdrawing from the heroin taken by her mother, spent the first two weeks of her life in intensive care.

But **Tina Rufo, RN**, and her husband, Tom, saw three beautiful kids who "needed extra special attention and love," says Rufo, who works in the medical/surgical unit on 6 East. "They immediately touched our hearts."

The couple, who became foster parents nine years ago, adopted Kayla and Mikey, now 9 and 7, when they were toddlers, and are in the process of adopting Hannah, who is almost 2.

The Rufos decided to become foster parents after years of trying to have a baby. During the application and licensing process, Kayla, then six months, was admitted to Childrens Hospital



Tina Rufo with children Kayla, Mikey and Hannah

for gastrointestinal surgery and was Rufo's patient. Learning Kayla needed a home, they applied to have her in their care.

Mikey and Hannah – both just weeks old – came to the Rufos' Simi Valley home because of their medical condition. "With my nursing background, we often got medical placements," says Rufo, adding, they've cared for about 25 foster children and still have

an active license for placements.

While Kayla and Hannah suffer from attention deficit disorder, Mikey's health problems are far more serious. Weighing just 36 pounds, he's endured numerous surgeries and will need medical attention throughout his life.

Rufo says caring for her children – all of whom have been patients at Childrens Hospital – has helped her have a better connection with patients and families. "I have had quite a few patients who have gone through surgeries similar to my son's. I can relate to them...knowing their fears, setbacks and victories."

Though she admits there are challenges to raising children with special needs, Rufo describes her life as "full and rich" with a support network comprised of her family, close friends, church, and hospital colleagues. "Working at Childrens Hospital, I'm surrounded by compassionate people. That's where I draw my strength."

"Every parent has challenges, whether a child is healthy or not," Rufo adds. "Our challenges are just a little different."

### Louise Held Nursing Award

Three Childrens Hospital Los Angeles nurses are recipients of the Louise Held Nursing Award. **Jody L. Franzen, RN** (5 East), **Rebekah Heckathorn, RN** (Bone Marrow Transplant) and **Bill Kenny, RN** (Pediatric Intensive Care) will receive a \$2,500 grant annually for five years from the Held Foundation as long as they remain working in hospitals to which the Held Foundation made the grants.

Spurred by the end of life experience of family matriarch Louise K. Held, the Held Foundation initiated the Nursing Award to help relieve the pressing nursing shortage in Los Angeles by providing top nursing graduates awards to work in four area hospitals for at least five years. The three Childrens Hospital recipients were among 20 awardees selected from top applicants graduating with BSN degrees from 23 elite nursing schools nationwide.

The Held Foundation was established in 1986 and has since provided a range of philanthropic support to causes in Los Angeles.

# Celebrating Nurse Week

## Nurse Week



Chief Nursing Officer Mary Dee Hacker, vice president, patient care services (left) and Rod Hanners, chief operation officer, at the pancake breakfast.



Bill Kenny (left) along with his RN Residency preceptor Cindy Rowlett during the Johnson & Johnson gala.

Childrens Hospital Los Angeles celebrated National Nurse Week in May 2006 with a variety of activities, including its Fifth Annual Nurse Essay Contest, which addressed the theme, "As a Nurse, What Legacy Do You Hope You Leave For the Future?" and a fun-filled pancake/pajama breakfast.

This year's essay winners were: **Brenda Barnum**, RN (1st place); **Susan Cline**, RN and **Marisa Martinez**, RN (tie for 2nd place); **Margaret Bottcher**, RN (3rd place).

Kicking off the celebration, **Bill Kenny**, RN, in the pediatric intensive care unit, was selected to share his story about becoming a nurse at *The Promise of Nursing for Southern California Gala* on April 27, 2006 at the Century Plaza Hyatt Regency in Los Angeles sponsored by Johnson and Johnson.



Nurse Essay Contest 1st Place winner Brenda Barnum (right) with Henri Ford, MD, who read her essay aloud to the audience.

*"...this amazing profession of nursing affords us the humble opportunity to participate in the most intimate experiences of life. Nurses have the constant opportunity to leave a mark in the lives of the families that we serve. For as much as they will never forget us, we should never forget them..."*

excerpt from Brenda Barnum's winning essay



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