

## **The Exceptional Nurse Newsletter**

August, 2006

[www.ExceptionalNurse.com](http://www.ExceptionalNurse.com)

Dear Exceptional Nurses and supporters,

### **Need Continuing Education?**

*"Teaching Nursing Students with Disabilities"* by Donna Maheady, ARNP, Ed.D.

*"Writing Your Way to Health and Healing: An interactive workshop for nurses with disabilities"* by Connie Adleman, RN; *"When your student is Deaf"* by Martha McElyea, MSN, Rockhurst/Research College of Nursing

Visit the Continuing Education page of [ExceptionalNurse.com](http://ExceptionalNurse.com) for details.

### **New Book!!**

In *"Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses Working with disabilities"*, by Donna Maheady, eleven nurses who defied disability tell their personal stories of courage and determination to continue to practice. The nurses have a wide range of disabilities including MS, arthritis, HIV, spina bifida, mental illness, vision loss, d/Deaf, back injuries, tremors, dystonia, and limb loss.

The book is available for \$14.95 at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com) and other online booksellers.

### **U.S. Department of Labor Job Accommodations Network (JAN) Announcement**

"Nurses with Disabilities" has been added to their Accommodation and Compliance Series

<http://www.jan.wvu.edu/media/nurses.html>

### **Social Security Benefits**

Social Security Disability Benefits Advocates of America

This group will challenge the Social Security Administration and obtain the benefits to which you are entitled. No out-of-pocket expenses. Fees come from any back payment owed to you, if they win your case. <http://www.disability-advocate.com/>

### **Statistics on Healthcare Professionals with Hearing Loss**

The Association of Medical Professionals with Hearing Loss (AMPHL) has had several inquiries about the statistics of healthcare professionals with hearing loss. AMPHL has a registry established to answer these questions. If you are a healthcare professional who is deaf or hard of hearing or know someone who is, please send an email and write "my name is [Name]. I'm a [physician, nurse, student, vet, whatever the correct title]. Membership in AMPHL is not required to be in the Registry of healthcare professionals. Personal information is not shared with outside parties. Send an email to Nghi Lu, MD, AMPHL Registry Committee at [nml725@yahoo.com](mailto:nml725@yahoo.com)

### **Web sites of Note**

#### **Recovering Nurses**

Nurses and other healthcare professionals face many special challenges while in recovery. Some of these issues include legal issues, dealing with the state boards, loss of income, and dealing with employers. This web site provides resources on where to go and what you need to do to begin the process of recovery.

<http://www.recoveringnurses.org/home/>

#### **Tremor Action Network "Shaking the World to Find a Cure"**

A resource for nurses with essential tremors (movement disorders). The organization provides resources, support, newsletters, chats and information about opportunities to participate in clinical trials. <http://tremoraction.org>

### **Publications of Note**



“Susan Fleming, RN — On Overcoming Disability”

by Don Vaughan

July 31, 2006

<http://community.nursingspectrum.com/MagazineArticles/article.cfm?AID=22778>

Read about Susan Fleming, RN, MN, of Chewelah, Washington -- a true inspiration to nurses with disabilities. Born with only one hand, she overcame numerous obstacles in her quest to become a registered nurse, and today is a perinatal clinical nurse specialist at Washington State University Intercollegiate College of Nursing. Susan is also on the board of directors of ExceptionalNurse.com. She has published numerous articles on the topic and wrote a chapter in *Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses Working with disAbilities*.

“Disabled and Displaced”

By Donna Maheady

This article summarizes the efforts of ExceptionalNurse.com to assist nurses with disabilities in the areas impacted by Hurricane Katrina.

<http://nursing.advanceweb.com/common/Editorial/Editorial.aspx?CC=75731>

### **ExceptionalNurse.com Disabled Nurses Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund**

The needs of our colleagues continue to be great. The article noted above includes only a few of the many stories. ExceptionalNurse.com continues to receive requests for assistance every day. Donations (large or small) are needed. Mail checks to ExceptionalNurse.com, 13019 Coastal Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410.

### **Save the date**

On Wednesday evening, October 18, 2006 from 8-10:00 pm EST, I will be doing an online chat on Nursing Spectrum about nurses with disabilities. Please log on, ask questions and join the discussion.

### **Mentor Request**

Nanci just completed a parish nurse training course and is hoping to develop an interfaith health ministry for deaf and hard of hearing people in the Denver area. Are there any other hard of hearing or deaf parish nurses out there? How is it working for you? Contact Nanci at

[Rusty818@comcast.net](mailto:Rusty818@comcast.net)

### **Mentors**

Exceptional Nurse is always looking for mentors. If you are interested in helping others, please email [ExceptionalNurse@aol.com](mailto:ExceptionalNurse@aol.com). Only email addresses are listed on the web site. In addition, a reminder to our current mentors, if you change email addresses, please remember to let us know.

### **Dr. Phil**

Are you dealing with anger regarding your disability and the response of the health care system? Please consider contacting Dr. Phil about your issues. ExceptionalNurse.com has contacted him and requested a show on this topic. Please show your interest and support of a program on this topic. Email Dr. Phil (suggest a show topic) at <http://www.drphil.com>.

### **Disability History Museum**

The museum provides an extensive history of disability and a collection of materials, pictures and artifacts. <http://www.disabilitymuseum.org>

### **Volunteer/ Donation opportunities**

<http://www.redcross.org>, <http://www.missingkids.com>, <http://www.nod.org>  
[http://www.uniteforsight.org/intl\\_volunteer](http://www.uniteforsight.org/intl_volunteer), [www.invisiblechildren.com](http://www.invisiblechildren.com), [www.savedarfur.org](http://www.savedarfur.org)

Keep the faith and get involved in our advocacy efforts. Please forward this newsletter to colleagues. Subscribe/ unsubscribe to this newsletter at [www.exceptionalnurse.com/maillist.htm](http://www.exceptionalnurse.com/maillist.htm)

Live generously,

*Donna*

Donna Maheady, Ed.D., ARNP

Founder and President

Contact me with news, ideas or suggestions for future newsletters. [ExceptionalNurse@aol.com](mailto:ExceptionalNurse@aol.com)