

The Exceptional Nurse Newsletter

March, 2007

www.ExceptionalNurse.com

Hello to all Exceptional Nurses and supporters,

Employment opportunities

Hispanic Nurse Solutions(r)

NCLEX-RN prep has a unique online program for Hispanic foreign nurses. We are seeking an R.N. to teach online from home. Must be vivacious, energetic and have the ability to make the material come alive. Our students face many challenges including language therefore the instructor must be sensitive and caring. Visit our website <http://www.hispanicnursesolutions.com> email: webmaster@classociates.biz or fax: 707-356-1926

Call for stories: Your help is needed to restore ADA

The American Association of People with Disabilities www.aapd.com needs compelling, real-life stories of disability-based employment discrimination to help make a case to Congress. Send an email summary of your story, detailing what happened, when, and how. Also be sure to indicate if your situation was resolved. Document any denials of reasonable accommodations, or instances of hiring discrimination, discriminatory firing, layoffs or harassment. Your name will not be used without your express permission. Send stories to Anne Sommers, Policy Counsel, at AAPD at aapdanne@earthlink.net or call (800) 840-8844 (V/TTY).

Help needed to spread the word to local public, hospital and university libraries

Potential nursing students, current nursing students and practicing nurses with disabilities need to know that a career in nursing is possible. Can you help out by calling your local public, hospital or university library and making a suggestion for purchase of this book?

“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 at www.iUniverse.com and at other online booksellers for 14.95. ISBN is 0-595-39649-6.

UK Research reveals prejudice against people disclosing impairments

A new report commissioned by the Disability Rights Commission (DRC), *Disclosing Disability: Disabled students and practitioners in social work, nursing and teaching*, has found that the risks of disclosing unseen disabilities and health conditions in the teaching, nursing and social work professions are compounded by the stigma attached to them. http://www.drc.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2007/drc_disclosure_research.aspx

UAN's Survey "Unsafe Handling -- Not on My Back!"

UAN needs stories of injured nurses to "put a face to the statistics" in their work with US Representative John Conyers (D-MI) for passage of HR 378, Nurse and Patient Safety and Protection Act of 2007. Your responses are confidential unless you grant permission to use your information publicly. You may also indicate if you are willing to talk to the media or to testify before Congress. You may forward the UAN Survey to other injured nurses who may wish to provide their information. For any questions about the survey, contact Suzanne Martin at 301-628-5133 or suzanne.martin@uannurse.org.

Unsafe Handling — Not on My Back!

Return this form to United American Nurses, AFL-CIO:

- Complete the form online at www@UANNurse.org OR
- Email your responses to UANInfo@UANNurse.org OR
- Mail the form to:
UAN
United American Nurses, AFL-CIO
8515 Georgia Ave.
Silver Spring, MD 20910

PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 20, 2007.

Too many nurses are injured through the simple act of repositioning a patient. UAN is working with Rep. John Conyers (D-MI) to pass a federal law (H.R. 378) mandating safe patient handling for RNs in hospitals. Help UAN put a face to the statistics—tell us your story. Your responses will be confidential unless you give us permission to share them.

(Fields #'s 1, 2, and 3, name, complete address and home phone are required.)

- 1) First Name:
Last Name:
- 2) Address:
City, ST ZIP:
- 3) Home phone:
Cell Phone:
- 4) Email:
- 5) Best time to contact you:
- 6) Do we have your permission to publicly use your information? ___Yes ___No
- 7) Are you willing to talk to the media or testify before Congress about your injury? ___Yes ___No

Tell us about your injury

- 8) Is your injury a
 One-time musculoskeletal injury
 Cumulative injury from repetitive physical motion
 Both

Describe your injury:

- 9) What one-time or repetitive motion caused the injury?
- 10) How might the injury have been prevented?
- 11) Did you miss work due to the injury? Yes How Long? _____ No
- 12) Did you require surgery? Yes No
- 13) Did you require physical therapy? Yes No
- 14) Do you suffer from chronic pain or other long-term effects from the injury? Yes No
If yes, describe them:
- 15) Did you change positions or clinical areas after the injury? Yes No
- 16) What type of unit do you work in?

Tell us about your workplace

- 17) Are you a union member? Yes No
If yes, what union?
- 18) What was your employer's response to your injury?
- 19) Did you file a workers' compensation claim? Yes No
If no, why not?
- 20) Does your facility have patient lifting or other devices? Yes No
If yes, what kind of devices?
- 21) Do they work? Yes No
- 22) Are they accessible to you at work? Yes No
- 23) Do you use the lifting devices? Yes No
If no, why not?
- 24) Does your facility have a no-manual lift policy? Yes No
- 25) Does your facility have an ergonomics/safe patient handling committee? Yes No

PLEASE RESPOND BY APRIL 20, 2007.

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United American Nurses, AFL-CIO

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Web site of interest

Grammar Girl's Quick and Easy Tips for Better Writing <http://grammar.gdnw.com>

Product of note

The Kurzweil-NFB Reader is a powerful PDA, a digital camera, and uses Kurzweil software to scan and read. It's small enough to fit in a jacket pocket, and it converts print very quickly. The K-NFB Reader is primarily designed for use by the blind and visually impaired, but it could help others with print disabilities. http://www.nfb.org/nfb/Handheld_Reader.asp?SnID=825641682

Just for fun

Peep surgery <http://www.peepresearch.org/surgery.html>

Exceptional Nurse is always looking for mentors. If you are interested in helping others, please email 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.

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 for details.

Volunteer opportunities

<http://www.redcross.org>, <http://www.missingkids.com>, <http://www.nod.org>

http://www.uniteforsight.org/intl_volunteer, www.invisiblechildren.com, 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

Live generously.

Donna

Donna Maheady, Ed.D., ARNP
Founder and President

Contact me with news, ideas or suggestions for future newsletters. ExceptionalNurse@aol.com

