

## ***The Exceptional Nurse Newsletter***

December, 2005

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

Dear Exceptional Nurses and supporters,

ExceptionalNurse.com extends ongoing concern and support to the thousands who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina, Rita and Wilma, particularly during this holiday season.

### **Exceptional Nurse responds: the Disabled Nurses Katrina Relief Fund**

ExceptionalNurse.com applied for a grant to provide funding to nurses with disabilities impacted by Katrina. Funds would be used for housing, re-location or other expenses. Please contact [ExceptionalNurse@aol.com](mailto:ExceptionalNurse@aol.com) for additional information.

### **Need a Belated holiday gift?**

Country Joe McDonald's CD *Thank the Nurse* is available. Songs include: "The lady with a lamp", "Clara Barton" and "Thank the Nurse". Cost is 15.95 (includes \$4.00 for S/H). Mail a check to ExceptionalNurse.com, 13019 Coastal Circle, Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410. Proceeds will be used for the Disabled Nurses Katrina Relief Fund.

### **Need Continuing Education? Want to support www.ExceptionalNurse.com?**

You can support the work of the web site, obtain ceu's, and learn from nurses with disabilities.

Visit the Continuing Education page. The following programs are offered:

*"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

### **Publication of note**

**"Walking Like a Duck"** by Patty Holloran, RN is the true story of a nurse walking from addiction to recovery. The book is available on the web site and at [www.Amazon.com](http://www.Amazon.com).

### **Deep Brain Stimulation for Dystonia**

View the photos of the remarkable journey of Beka Serdans, RN.

<http://www.parasphotography.com/beka.html>

### **Nurse of the Month**

**Jennifer Krawcheck, RN** was paralyzed following a dirt bike accident. The accident and use of a wheelchair didn't hinder her dream of becoming a nursing faculty member.

<http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/northphoenix/articles/1210phx-nurse1210Z3.html>

### **Congratulations to nursing students of the month**

**Steve Berlan** who has a hearing loss graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a B.S. in nursing. He graduated magna cum laude and has been invited to join SigmaTheta Tau, the International Honor Society of Nursing.

**Susan Fleming** is a nurse who was born missing a hand. She received her Masters in Nursing from the University of Washington.

**Willie Mae Jackson-Ferguson** is a nurse with Lupus. She received her BSN from Metropolitan State University.

**Beka Serdans** is a nurse with dystonia. She received her MS in Nursing and certification as a Nurse Practitioner in New York.

### **Scholarship Available from the National Federation of the Blind**

The NFB scholarship program provides 30 scholarships ranging from \$3,000 to \$12,000 plus an all expenses paid trip to the annual convention of the NFB. All legally blind, full-time students admitted to academic and vocational training programs at the post-secondary level for the 2006-07 school years are encouraged to apply for one of these scholarships. According to Jim Marks, "it's an experience that provides a benefit for winners far beyond the money. Winners get exposure to a philosophy of blindness that affirms high expectations. Blind students with positive attitudes and substantial blindness-skills can do anything they want". [http://nfb.org/sch\\_intro.htm](http://nfb.org/sch_intro.htm)

### **Web site of note**

The **Do-It** Center at the University of Washington serves to increase the success of people with disabilities in college and careers.

<http://www.washington.edu/doi/>

### **Profiles needed**

**The Department of Labor GEM Nursing program** at <http://www.gem-nursing.org/> is interested in profiles of nursing students with disabilities. Contact Lucia Bruce at [Bruce.Lucia@DOL.GOV](mailto:Bruce.Lucia@DOL.GOV) if you are interested in having your profile added to their web site.

**Lauren Scricca** is featured in the GEM Nursing Student Nurse Spotlight. Lauren has a hearing loss and attends Saddleback College in California. Visit <http://www.gem-nursing.org/> for details.

### **Volunteer 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)

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)

Best wishes for a Happy New Year!

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)