

*The Exceptional Nurse Newsletter*

June, 2008

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

Happy summer to all Exceptional Nurses and supporters,

**Solicitation to Participate**

A study of RNs in Maine and Massachusetts with hearing, vision and/or communication disabilities is being conducted by Leslie Neal-Boylan, PhD, RN, Associate professor at the Yale University School of Nursing. The study is designed to measure work instability (the mismatch between the ability to perform nursing work and the demands and expectations of the work) in nurses who have difficulty hearing, difficulty seeing (but are able to read large type) or difficulty communicating (being understood or understanding others, unrelated to a cognitive deficit). To obtain study materials and to participate in this study, please email [leslie.neal-boylan@yale.edu](mailto:leslie.neal-boylan@yale.edu) or call 203-785-3337. The study ends October 1, 2008.

**Employment Opportunities**

Bender Consulting continues to actively recruit nurses with disabilities!!!

Telephone Triage Positions are available nationwide.

Immediate need for nurses in IN, CA, GA, CT, OH, and TN (positions are available in other states as well).

Applicant must have a current RN license with no restrictions and be willing to work 40 hrs/week at the job site. Excellent telephone/voice skills needed. Starting salary is 30,000 – 45,000 with full benefits.

Call **Brandon Kazmierczak** at **(412) 446-4451**.

[BKazmierczak@benderconsult.com](mailto:BKazmierczak@benderconsult.com) [www.benderconsult.com](http://www.benderconsult.com)

## **Dr. Oz Meets Dystonia!**

Interested in learning about this rare movement disorder, which afflicts close to 1 million individuals in the US? More than 40 million people suffer from a movement disorder such as Tremor, Parkinson's disease and Dystonia causing intense functional disability, pain, involuntary movements and bizarre postures. The CD highlights an interview Dr. Oz conducted with one of his ICU nurses at Columbia-Presbyterian, Beka Serdans, RN, NP and her neurosurgeon from Weill Cornell, Dr. Michael Kaplitt. Beka has dealt with dystonia and underwent Deep Brain Stimulation in December 2004.

To purchase a Copy of the CD, which also highlights the Rocker, Alice Cooper, in 3 Public Service Announcements for dystonia and tremor, checks can be made out to Care4Dystonia, Inc. Each copyrighted CD is available for \$ 20.00 US dollars. We kindly ask that you forward this to patients, colleagues and others with movement disorders.

For Address information please visit

<http://www.care4dystonia.org/index.php/contact-us/>.

Beka Serdans, RN, MS, NP

Founder

Care4Dystonia, Inc.

[www.care4dystonia.org](http://www.care4dystonia.org)

Setting the PACE in patient care, awareness, collaboration and education for dystonia.

*Author of I'm Moving Two and I'm Moving On...Are You ?? Available on*

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

## **Study Seeks Participants with Sensory and/or Mobility Impairments**

If you have a sensory and/or mobility impairment, you may be eligible to participate in a new research project. This research aims to understand what people with sensory and/or mobility impairments do in their daily lives, how their environments affect their community participation and what, if any, help they need to complete activities.

Eligibility requires that you:

are between the ages of 18 and 75 and have a mobility, visual or a hearing impairment, live in the community, have access to a computer, read at or above the 6th grade level, and be able to enter responses into a web-based survey or direct another individual to enter your responses.

If eligibility is established you will receive a code to log on to the survey site and complete the study. All information will be kept confidential. No connection between you and your survey answers will be made. Participants will be reimbursed by a personal check or a gift certificate to Target or Walgreens. The web-based assessment contains two surveys and will take approximately one hour to complete.

Please click on the link and you will be directed to a short pre-survey to determine eligibility. <http://emc.wustl.edu/Nscr/Nscrlogn.htm>

This study is conducted by the Washington University Program in Occupational Therapy in collaboration with Paraquad, Inc. This research is funded by the National Center for Medical Rehabilitation Research at the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research at the US Department of Education

Imagine the possibilities if....

**“Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses working with disabilities”  
became a best seller!!**

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, an limb loss. The book is available at [www.iUniverse.com](http://www.iUniverse.com) and at other online booksellers for 14.95. ISBN is 0-595-39649-6.

Order a personalized, autographed copy of *Leave No Nurse Behind: Nurses working with disAbilities* directly from ExceptionalNurse.com. It makes a great personal or professional or holiday gift. Email: [ExceptionalNurse@aol.com](mailto:ExceptionalNurse@aol.com).

**Unite For Sight Volunteer Abroad Opportunities**  
[http://www.uniteforsight.org/intl\\_volunteer](http://www.uniteforsight.org/intl_volunteer)

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF VOLUNTEERS LIKE YOU, UNITE FOR SIGHT RESTORED SIGHT TO 10,062 PATIENTS AND PROVIDED EYE CARE TO 300,000 IN 2006 AND 2007

Unite For Sight welcomes volunteers who may not have previous health or eye care experience. Volunteers receive all necessary training from Unite For Sight.

What is Unite For Sight's Mission? Unite For Sight is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that empowers communities to improve eye health and eliminate preventable blindness.

What Do Volunteers Do? Volunteers receive hands-on clinical experience while assisting doctors in remote, rural villages. Volunteers learn about international health and eye care and learn clinical skills while working with patients and doctors.

The goal of Unite For Sight is to create eye disease-free communities. Volunteers work with partner eye clinics to provide care in communities without previous access. The doctors and volunteers provide community-based screening programs. The clinic's eye doctors diagnose and treat eye disease and surgical patients receive free surgery. No patient remains blind due to lack of funds. Volunteers see the joy on patients' faces when their sight is restored after years of blindness. These memories last a lifetime.

## Donations Needed

If you have found this newsletter to be helpful, please consider making a donation to assist with expenses of providing it for you. Even a \$1.00 is appreciated. You can donate using the Amazon Honor System. Click on the “Make a Donation” page of the web site. <http://tinyurl.com/2adzle>

## 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.

## 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.

## Volunteer opportunities

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

*Make a difference!*

*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)