

## HAPPENINGS



The "Happenings" column highlights chapter activities and accomplishments. Submit your activities to [nsna@nsna.org](mailto:nsna@nsna.org)

By Jessica Robinson

# From Penny Wars to Ugly Sweaters, NSNA Chapters Make a Difference!

## Arkansas

Like most nursing students, the students at the University of Arkansas, Medical Sciences (UAMS), barely have time to keep up with school and studies. But on November 15, 2007, they donated their time as part of a Christmas project to benefit children in the local Head Start program. The Student Nurse Association teamed together to host a chicken spaghetti lunch/fundraiser, which was a huge hit. While the SNA ingredients were bought with SNA funds, officers donated their time and cooking skills, and members donated drinks, paper supplies/utensils, salad, bread, and desserts. Within 45 minutes of starting the lunch, two giant roaster pans and several crock pots full of their gourmet food were gone. Meal tickets were sold for \$5 and the money raised totaled \$568.00, with \$205.00 going to purchase Christmas gifts for the children in the Head Start classroom. In addition to gifts, the funds were also used to throw a party for the children which included healthy snacks. Leftover funds helped deserving members attend the National Student Nurses' Association Convention in Grapevine, TX!

## California

The Saddleback College California Nursing Student Association is heating up community health! This past holiday season, Saddleback College raised the bar for other schools with their Community Health Projects. First, CNSA Community Health was given four names for the Project Angel Tree. Project Angel Tree is a mission



Erin Maremont, of the Saddle Back College Student Development Office, and Lisa Elliot, the Saddleback California Nursing Student Association (CNSA) Community Health Co-Chair, with Project Angel Tree gifts.

that centers on giving necessary gifts to students and their family members during Christmas time. Age, wish list, and first name are distributed to those that wish to buy the gifts. Saddleback College's SNA collected an exceptional \$350 from students, staff, and faculty donations. With a budgeted list and a handful of cash, nursing students Lisa Barrick and Lisa Elliot, both Resource Community Health Chairpersons for Saddleback College SNA headed out to purchase their gifts. Being able to purchase every item on their list was, "perhaps the best part of our whole excursion," said Lisa Elliot. Because they had raised so much money, there was enough left over to purchase a gift card to guarantee that no receiver was left behind. Two-month old Nilou received clothing, toys, fuzzy blankets, and, by special request, "the cutest

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little Christmas dress.” Michelle, a 20-year old, received clothes, shoes, and an UNO Spin game. A 5-year old received “Dora the Explorer” pajamas, along with clothes, shoes, and a necklace and earring set. Lisa Elliot is “convinced that no one project could better exemplify the kindness and caring nature of our instructors and future nurses alike.”

Another Community Health Project sponsored by Saddleback College was the “Socks and Soles” Drive. Socks and shoes were donated and bins were filled to the brim as all footwear was stockpiled in a car and sent to VCC Mercy Warehouse. This is where the “Sole Sister” collects hundred of shoes that will be given to men, women, and children in nearby areas, as well as to those who have no access to footwear in other countries. Donations from students and faculty at Saddleback College will let over 200 people protect their feet during this wintry season. Congratulations on a job which will certainly better your community and its citizens!

## Nebraska

A well meaning relative may have given you the gift of a charming but ridiculous looking sweater during the holidays this year. You may want to just toss it away, but the Student Nurses Association at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Scottsbluff, had other ideas for theirs: use them to provide food for local families. The Ugly Sweater Bowling Party was organized and brought together 30 nursing students who all arrived donning third and fourth-hand ugly sweaters and armed with cans of food to donate. The sweaters were all bought at Goodwill, an agency that promotes job skills for those in need. The nursing students’ bowling party was part of a state-wide canned food drive that Scottsbluff’s First State Bank organized and where all contribu-



Socks and Sole! CNSA's Community Health Co-Chairs Lisa Elliot and Lisa Barrick and faculty and Community Health Faculty Advisor Dr. Terri Whitt with a van packed full of shoes for the VCC Mercy Warehouse.

tions went to make over 100 food baskets for the needy. So, next time you need to get rid of that ugly sweater Aunt Matilda gave you, think of throwing a party to fundraise money, the way UNMC’s SNA did!

## North Carolina

The North Carolina Association of Nursing Students (NCANS) adopted the Safe Kids Campaign as its 2007 Community Health Project. To raise funds and promote interest, NCANS decided to kick off a Penny War at its Council of State Leaders meeting one month before its state convention this past spring. The association’s community goals for the year were to: lose weight, win the Penny War, and support the Safe Kids Campaign. At their state conference, members managed to raise \$1500 and the total was split 50/50 with the winning school. The most satisfying part of the process, said Brooke Englert, NCANS President, “was the presentation of \$750 to the Safe Kids campaign at our October

Conference,” Safe Kids Worldwide is a non-profit organization that works to prevent unintentional childhood injuries.

The North Carolina Association of Nursing Students passed a motion in October for a separate foundation for nursing scholarships. Slated to begin early in 2009, North Carolina Student Nursing Foundation will serve to provide scholarships to nursing students in the state of North Carolina and will be open to those in diploma, ADN, and BSN programs. This landmark decision makes North Carolina the first state in the United States to establish a separate foundation for student nurses. The new foundation is just getting off the ground and has a lot of work ahead, such as selecting board members and passing bylaws. Undeterred with government red tape and paperwork, NCANS is proudly looking forward to the assistance the NCSNF will be able to provide to future student nurses of North Carolina. ©