

HAPPENINGS



The "Happenings" column highlights chapter activities and accomplishments. Submit your activities to nsna@nsna.org

By Jessica Robinson

From Coast to Coast: Nursing Students Making a Difference



The Saddleback College Chapter of CNSA – with members Michelle Henry, Christina Gorospe, Jaime Saw, Lisa Elliot, Megan Marshall, Shannon Mills, Danielle Lawson, and Lacey Vasquez pictured here - raised more than \$1400 at an April March of Dimes Walk America event.

California

On April 29, 2007, the NSNA chapter at Saddleback College in California walked to raise money and awareness for the March of Dimes, a non-profit organization dedicated to prevention, awareness, and education towards prematurity. Thirty NSNA members participated in the 5.5 mile walk to raise funds and awareness for premature births. Saddleback College adopted the March of Dimes Walk America as one of their Community Health projects to raise awareness of premature birth, the leading cause of newborn death. It endangers the lives of more than half a million infants, and it is growing at a disturbing rate. The Saddleback College Chapter of CNSA raised more than \$1,400.00, and was recognized by the March of Dimes as a "Top Walker" for their efforts. The money raised goes directly to research to find the causes of premature birth, to support families whose babies must spend time

in neonatal intensive care units, and to provide women with the latest educational materials on having a healthy pregnancy. Congratulations to Saddleback College nursing students for a walk well done!

Florida

In previous years, under the direction of the Florida Nursing Students Association's Dr. Carol Petrozella, the Miami Dade College-Student Nurses' Association (MDC-SNA) has donated unused items from their nurse skills pack to an obstetrics clinic in rural Haiti. These packs are used for the required nursing skills lab courses during the first and second semesters. Expanding on this idea, Terrance Bolon, current president of the Miami Dade College SNA, decided to seek further donations from local corporations. MDC-SNA formed a partnership with Hospital Corporation of America (HCA) in Miramar, Florida. To date, HCA has donated over 900

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Terry Bolon with supplies for nurse Alma Knight's "pink RV," which provides health care to low income communities in Miami, Florida.

lbs. of healthcare supplies to the MDC-SNA including; alcohol pads, knee immobilizers, arm slings, gauze, bandages, Strep Kits, Foley catheters, IV starter kits, etc.

MDC-SNA utilizes a variety of ways to distribute these much needed supplies. Having heard of the MDC-SNA efforts, a local church contacted the school and expressed an interest. MDC-SNA donated 100 lbs. of supplies to the church, which were then shipped by the church to an indigent clinic in Jamaica. Another innovative way to identify those in need is to regularly browse the local newspaper. It was through the *Miami Herald* that MDC-SNA – including Giovanni Fernandez, Vice-President; Claudette Burnette, Treasurer; Kareena Tate, Historian; Aurianna McNear, Executive Board Member – took note of nurse Alma Knight and her pink RV. Ms. Knight takes her mobile clinic into the inner city and poor neighborhoods of south Florida offering basic nursing care and medical information to those who cannot or will not seek health care elsewhere. In addition to donating medical supplies, the MDC-SNA decided to incorporate Ms. Knight's efforts into part of their community outreach project and will ride along not only to assist, but more importantly to learn the needs of this population. Congratulations on your creative ideas as we wish you continued success!

Georgia

Tornados, pennies, and nursing students. The Georgia Association of Nursing Students (GANS) raised \$1000 from Penny Wars for the Sumter Regional Hospital in Americus, GA, a hospital destroyed by a tornado on March 1, 2007. The hospital functions as the only major emergency room in the immediate area. The GANS board of directors got the opportunity to tour the condemned hospital – they had to don masks and hard hats and walk through patients' room that were torn in half.

Penny Wars is a fundraising game (utilized by GANS at both the state and national conventions) where each state has a cup - the idea is to end up with the most points

by the close of the game. According to GANS treasurer, James DiAngelo, participants earn points by putting pennies (worth 1 point by putting pennies or dollar bills (100 points) into their own cup. They can also reduce their opponent's points by placing silver coin (nickels, -5 points; dimes, -10 points; quarters, -25 points; and silver dollars, -100) in their cups. The winning state SNA gets half of all the money raised while the rest is donated. This year, in the spirit of disaster relief, the money was donated to Sumter Regional Hospital.

GANS held its annual Council of State Leaders Retreat in Jekyll Island, GA on

May 4-6, 2007. GANS sponsored two students from each school to attend the retreat, which included meals, registration, accommodations and activity fees. The group of approximately 45 people benefited from a weekend of games, breakout sessions, and a ropes course on the island. The keynote speaker for the weekend was former NSNA President Rebecca Wheeler. The retreat was originally created as a way to bring student nurse leaders from around the state together for a weekend. During this occasion, students get to connect with other GANS members, and learn newer ways to develop their local chapters.

Texas

For the last thirteen years and in partnership with the ARCH of Bell County Association, the nursing students of the University of Mary Hardin in Baylor Texas (UMHB) have hosted a Halloween and Valentine dance for clients receiving services from the Texas Department of State Health and Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS). UMHB NSA President-elect Soumaley Rattanasavanh notes that the objective of the event is to offer a safe environment for mingling and conversing between the clients receiving DADS services, their families, and NSA members. By donating snacks, decorations, and sacrificing a night's worth of studying, UMHB NSA members have danced the night away with clients who have a mental health disability. According to Walt Krueger, membership chairperson of the Arch of Bell County Association, "The nursing students help [patients] get comfortable and give them encouragement to go out and have a good time." This year's theme for the Halloween dance is "Nurses through the Decades" where students and faculty costumes will vary from traditional to modern nursing uniforms. It is important to note that both the clients and NSA volunteers profit from this experience. The clients are able to interact with the UMHB NSA members and faculty advisors in a therapeutic and fun manner. Best wishes for continued successful parties! ☺