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Medical Surgical Nursing Staff as Fundraisers

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Medical Surgical nurses and clinical care partners care for patients who are usually awake, alert and able to learn and develop relationships. In addition, families are frequently present and involved. This allows nurses to develop a unique, trusting relationship with many of their patients and families. This is particularly true for those who are frequently admitted or who experience a long-term stay. Ironically, even though the nursing team members are the caregivers, they often feel as if they receive more from the patients than they give.

A frequent way for nurses to give back is to participate in fundraising walks. Nurses are excellent fundraisers because they know intimately the lived experience of the patients they care for. Their stories influence their friends and families to care and give as a result.

HEART DISEASE

In 2011, 10East, 2West, 6th floor, and 8th floor nurses supported the American Heart Association (AHA) by joining the UC San Diego Health System, 400-walker strong team in the Heart Walk. The team surpassed their previous record and raised \$72K, earning them the recognition of the #3 fundraising company in San Diego. Money raised goes toward research grants to support cardiovascular innovations and patient education throughout the nation. In 2011, UC San Diego Health System was awarded \$5.6 million by the AHA to support cardiovascular research.

CANCER

Cancer is a cause that frequently motivates nurses across units to raise funds for a cure. 3West nurses on the

Bone Marrow and Transplant (BMT) unit sponsor a team for Light the Night to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). This event is a leisurely walk where walkers carry illuminated balloons - white for survivors, red for supporters, and gold in memory of loved ones lost to cancer. Maria Tualla, CCP has been the captain of the team for the last 2-3 years, joined by 3 West nurses Maria Mercado, Vivian Azarcon, Marlo Garcia, Arlene Ferrer, and Marie Aquinde. The event is particularly special because it allows the nurses to walk alongside their patients who have survived their diagnosis. Event organizers share that this is a way to bring light into the dark world of cancer.

Mary Sullivan, RN 8th floor puts in 14 hours days during the Susan Komen Breast Cancer walk to staff the medical tent in tribute to her friend from nursing school that had breast cancer. Mary also runs half marathons to support LLS. Jen Pavone and Kara Sievers RN (3W) walked in the 3-day Susan Komen event. Leo Alcalá RN (6E), Consolacion Belleza RN (6E), and Radinka Yordonova, RN (8th) all participated in the Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society.

HIV

6East Hillcrest nurses have been on the forefront of HIV care since the HIV epidemic began in the 1980's. In recent years, staff nurses, their families, and the nurse management team have joined UC San Diego campus for the Annual AIDS walk. The team has been one of the top 10 fundraisers – with their best year in 2010 when the team raised \$12,000 for services in the San Diego community that help patients living with HIV. In addition, Diane Wiskus, RN has coordinated a display of the



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AIDS quilt in the cafeteria for World AIDS Day and coordinated medical volunteers (including UC San Diego staff) to provide basic first aid services for the Gay Pride Festival.

LIVER DISEASE

11 West nurses from the Transplant unit participate annually in the Liver Life Walk to support the mission of the American Liver Foundation. Money raised by Liver Life Walk participants provides critical funding for medical



3West staff at the Light the Night Walk to benefit the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society



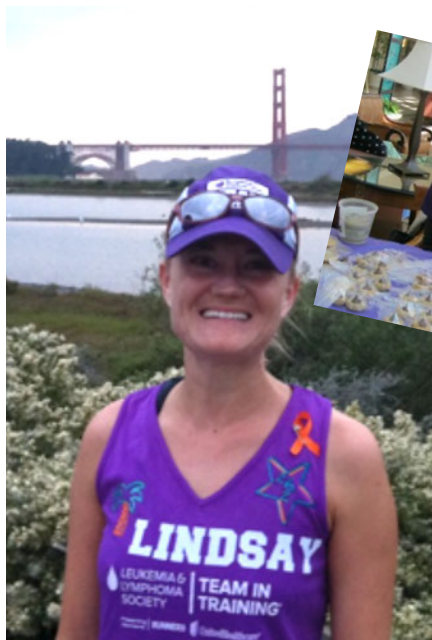
TOP: 6East staff at the AIDS Walk

ABOVE: 11West nurses from the Transplant unit participate annually in the Liver Life Walk to support the mission of the American Liver Foundation.

research, public education, patient support services, and advocacy. Patients that have received a liver transplant on 11West and their families frequently join the UC San Diego nursing team at this special event.

MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS

8th floor nurses have found their cause in a special relationship with a young 23 year old patient with Multiple Sclerosis (MS). The patient is from Central America and has few members of her family that live locally. As her medical condition has progressed, nursing staff have stepped in to fill the gaps by lending additional social support. Melanie Nelson, RN visits the patient on her days off making sure that she gets fresh air and sunshine. Quana Edwards, CCP captained a team (named after the patient) for the MS walk to raise money to fight the disease. Terri Traylor, CCP, and nursing staff (Odette Punsalang, Le Nguyen, Maricar Cabanes, and Arlene Panlaqui) all walked while many staff contributed donations. In the end, \$1000 was raised in honor of this special patient.



Lindsay Randall Bone Marrow Transplant (BMT) RN



Walking through the Thornton lobby you might catch a glimpse of Lindsay Randall selling home-made baked goods. Lindsay has a unique way of supporting her favorite cause, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). She is a member of "Team in Training", a group that trains endurance athletes to participate in various endurance

fundraising events including marathons and triathlons. Lindsay says that "this is a way to run with other people with similar goals". As a nurse on a BMT unit, running marathons allows her to "help in another way by raising money to find a cure." In order to participate, Lindsay has a high fundraising bar to meet for each event. Last year, she raised \$2335 for a single event. If you see her, please stop by and buy something sweet for a great cause.