



WELS Nursing Today

Lutheran Mobile Clinic—Perfecting Efficiency

By Melissa Schuetze, RN

Treating 350 patients per day with one ambulance, one container of medicine, and about 10 staff members, I think Lutheran Mobile Clinic (LMC) has perfected efficiency! Of course, none of this could be done without the support of churches, schools, and individuals in the U.S. and Canada.

LMC has served rural villages in Malawi since 1970. We currently focus on primary and community healthcare, offering services in prenatal exams, "Under 5" child exams and vaccinations, nutrition classes, health education talks, and finally a "sick line" with a pharmacy. We set up clinic at four different rural villages throughout the week. Kari Belter and I are the two American nurses that oversee the clinic while our five nurses, nutritionist, driver, and clinical officer (similar to a

physician assistant) work hard everyday to meet the needs of the patients. My favorite part of the day is when we all gather together before clinic starts for a devotion and prayer. I love to see the hundreds of women waiting for the clinic to begin sing along with a familiar hymn.



On most days a national pastor joins us at clinic since the church buildings also serve as our clinic buildings. It was a memorable day when I watched the pastor baptize a premature infant clinging to his life.

How can you support Lutheran Mobile Clinic? Prayers! Here are some suggestions:

- Safe travels on dangerous roads
- Resources to overcome the frequent shortages of medicines and diesel

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- Patience and strength for all staff members to continue with the work entrusted to us

With donations and financial support:

- Project donations are limited due to the high cost of postage
- More updated suggestions can be found on the Central Africa Medical Mission Web site

Financial donations help with the daily operations of the clinic, such as keeping our ambulances in working condition, stocking our pharmacy, buying baby formula and food for our nutrition class, and repairing those leaky roofs during rainy season.

For more information visit our Web site at www.camm.us.

"The king will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.' " (Matthew 25:40)



Heroes for Health

By Stephanie Pankratz

Wisconsin Lutheran College is offering a nursing day camp for middle school students during the week of July 23-26. Participants will learn about the wonderful world of nursing through hands on experiences and off campus immersion activities. Learn about God's crown creation of the human body as well as life saving techniques such as First Aid and CPR. Students will also get to spend some time with our nursing simulator family. It is an ideal opportunity for anyone

thinking about the healthcare field. Learn what nursing has to offer in a safe and Christian environment.

Space is limited so do not miss out on the opportunity to apply. Every day is a new day to learn; so start your exploration of the nursing world now. Join us for camp! We would love to see you on campus.

For more information contact Stephanie Pankratz at stephanie.pankratz@mail.wlc.edu or 920-539-2230.



WELSNA Meet and Greet in Twin Cities, Minnesota

WELSNA is planning a meet and greet the evening of June 14, 2012 in the Twin Cities, Minn. area. The location is yet to be determined.

Watch for details on the WELSNA Web site for more information and updates.



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Hello Honey

By Dawn Orta, PA-C, MAJ, SP

Interservice Physician Assistant Program Manager

"Hello Honey. How are you and the kids?" asks the soldier. "Fine, you?" replies the spouse. Immediately the spouse hears a loud blast and the soldier hastily gets off the phone.

Does every interaction with a deployed loved one end this way? No, most end differently, but we live in a world where technology releases information at a lightening pace and the spouse often hears various news reports about what is going on abroad and wonders if that injured soldier was their soldier. Who can the families turn to? Could it be you?

The Military's Reserve and National Guard comprise 48% of the total force and come from all over the country. Many families are not near a military installation, which are prepared to assist families with their needs while a loved one is deployed. During a deployment, it is possible for spouses to feel lost and isolated from the rest of society.

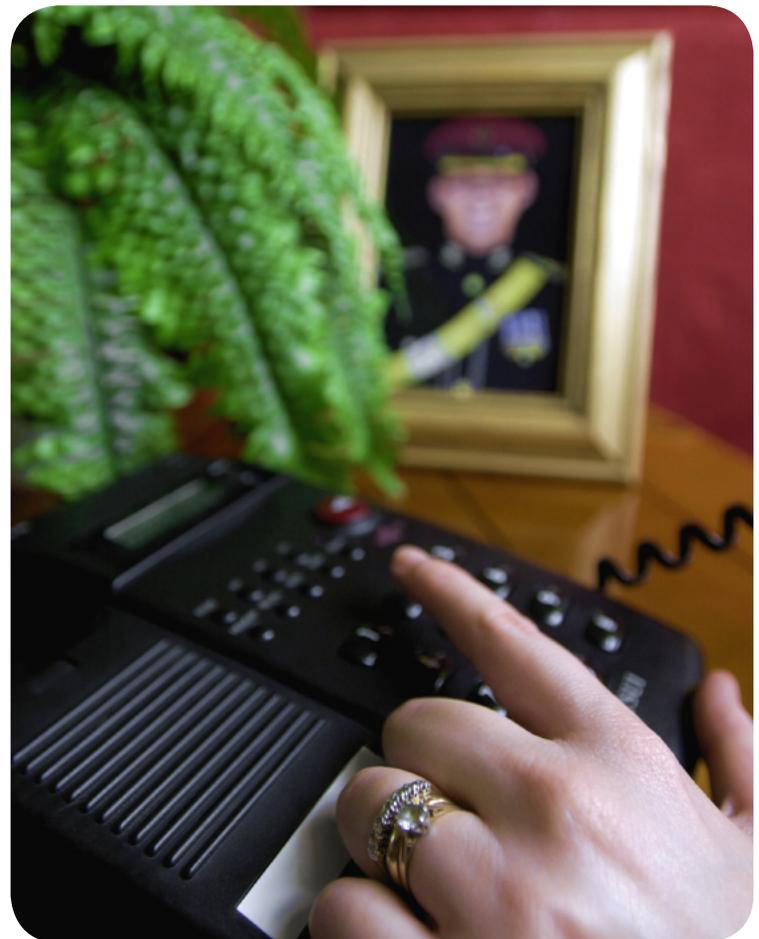
Even before deployment the family with two parents has essentially transformed into a single parent household. Soldiers will miss community events and weekend activities with their kids once per month due to weekend drills. Many take additional personal time to deal with military requirements and must deal with employers as they miss work due to those responsibilities. Families are members of the military too and their sacrifices are just as challenging. Many communities just do not have the knowledge and resources to understand the needs and demands placed on military spouses whose husband/wife is deployed.

Children are very resilient, yet they still have hurdles to overcome. It is not easy for a child to cope with a disrupted family life, long deployments, and that their parent may be in harm's way.

What can you do for these soldiers and their spouses? Talk to them and ask them how things are going. Sit with the spouse during church service and if they have children, give the family a hand! You can offer to

babysit, cut the grass, shovel snow, take them shopping, help them drop off a vehicle for repairs, take them to a doctor's appointment, be a mentor to the adults, build relationships with the children or just simply listen. Stay engaged with the family; not just once or twice, but on a regular basis before, during and after the deployment.

The WELS Military Services committee provides spiritual services to WELS members and others who serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. The committee carries out its mission through a ministry-by-mail program, a full-time civilian chaplain in Europe, and a national civilian chaplain and liaison to the military. A referral to this wonderful resource can provide much needed spiritual support and comfort in a time of great need for our military families. Registration is available on the WELS Special Ministries Web site, www.wels.net/special-ministries, under "online referrals."





Special Ministries
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Milwaukee, WI 53222-4398

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• News and Notes •

It's Alzheimer's—A Time for Extraordinary Love

This workshop was held at Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School in Jackson, Wis., on Saturday, March 24. More than 80 people attended from all over Wisconsin to hear presentations by Pastor Curt Seefeldt from The Lutheran Home Association, an organization for people affected by Alzheimer's disease. Several WELSNA nurses also presented on the clinical aspects of Alzheimer's Disease and what our congregations can do to create a more welcoming environment for these people. For more information or to request the workshop in your area go to www.tlha.org.

WELSNA Spring Nursing Conference

The WELSNA Council is pleased to announce that the Spring Nursing Conference will be held on May 5 at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Watertown, Wis., from 9:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. The theme for the conference is "Nurses working together as servants of Christ—around the corner and around the world!" The cost is \$10 and will cover lunch and all materials. To register go to www.welsnurses.net.

WELS Summer Camps

There are three WELS summer camps in Wisconsin that are looking for an RN and student nurse to volunteer during their camps. Help is needed to pass out medications and to handle the basic first aid needs of the campers. If interested visit www.welsnurses.net and under the "Announcements" you will find contact information.

Teachers needed for college course

Wisconsin Lutheran College School of Nursing would like to offer a 1-2 credit college course on Parish Nursing. The class will mostly be an elective course for senior nursing students, however it would also be available to practicing nurses who are interested in this area of health care.

The course can be offered as a summer school course, an evening course through either the fall or spring semester, or even during the three week J-term in January. Qualifications would be a WELS RN with a minimum of two years experience in Parish Nursing, MSN degree. Please contact Prof. Rebekah Carey at rebekah.carey@wlc.edu.