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## Welcome, Welcome, Welcome...

We are here Float/Resource team!!!! This is your newsletter that you all have been waiting for. We hope it will be enjoyable, educational and fun. This newsletter will include information about our awesome Registered Nurses, Clinical Care Partners and Administrative Care Partners. There are many of us in the department that do not have a chance to interact; this will give us a chance to come together as

a community. We hope with the enthusiasm and support of everyone that this newsletter can be a success.

When the Float Team manager Mary Horan suggested the idea of a newsletter for the Float/Resource Team, she had three very willing staff members who volunteered to pull it all together. We wanted to make it exciting, educational and informative in everyway. The Float/Resource team responded vigorously to the

naming of the newsletter contest and we have finally transitioned from a concept to our first newsletter.

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## Medical Mission to Kenya 2011

Whether Millicent Manyore is in her village in Kenya or at UCLA's high-tech hospital in Westwood, Manyore's 5' 4" frame is a force to be reckoned with. Millicent reminds me of Lillian Wald and Mary Breckinridge, the Nursing pioneers who broke barriers to defend their beloved communities. Manyore, RN Extraordinaire just like these nursing pioneers before her, stands tall when she fights to help fellow Kenyans.

Manyore was able to harness this fight into her organization, Medical



Missions to Kenya and Hunger Relief (MMK) which focuses on

promoting health awareness and disease prevention. Manyore hopes to do so by forming strategic alliances with the community health workers in Kenya. Manyore had to overcome overwhelming challenges to get this mission off the ground. When she initially sought support for her medical mission, Manyore was discouraged when her own church showed no interest in her idea. But she was undaunting in

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# Medical Mission to Kenya 2011 (Continued from Pg 1)

and in God's power she continued. Millicent states, "The Kenyan people are dependent on me, my village back in Kenya is waiting for me, and I just can't fail them. At the same time, I have received overwhelming support from complete strangers." She describes the overwhelming support received from the UCLA Medical Alumni Association and the UCLA Global Health staff.

Millicent started as an LVN in 2000 and graduated from Park University in Missouri in 2004. In which, she earned a Bachelor of sci-

ence in nursing (BSN) from the University of Texas. Manyore's motivation to become a nurse came after she migrated to the United States and she discovered that she was hypertensive. Kenya's inadequate health system was glaring since no one discovered that she was hypertensive in Kenya despite her numerous visits to the doctor. She admits that no one bothers to check your blood pressure in Kenya.

December 1-15, 2011, MMK will coordinate a group of twelve medical professionals including, nurses,

medical doctors, and dentists to provide medical screenings and promote health awareness for chronic conditions in some of Kenya's underserved populations. Dr. Allison Diamant and Dr. Sara May from Torrance Memorial Hospital will provide leadership for a interdisciplinary team with nurses from Denver, Miami, UCLA and Kaiser



Permanente in Los Angeles.

Collaborations have been established with the Kenyan Ministry of Health and the local hospitals that will provide us with free HIV test kits and other essential supplies. We will be providing medical services alongside local Kenyan doctors and nurses. They can learn from us and we in turn can learn from them. We will be teaching local health community workers on how to perform basic medical screenings for chronic diseases like diabetes and hypertension, so they can follow up on the patients we identify for sustainability. We are also working with a local nonprofit organization on the ground called MAA Health Care Initiative that regularly schedules medical camps in some locations. Due to lack of access,

most of the locals in areas such as the Samburu and Laikipia districts rely solely on these medical camps as their only chance to get their health needs addressed.

Manyore beams, "I am very excited about the lives we are going to touch. Just knowing that we will change people's lives, that we will make a difference - this is what excites me because we are going to create social change. We want to break the structural and social barriers that prevent locals from seeking treatment for illnesses until it is too late." We are going to demand that doctors hire trained personnel like certified nursing assistants (CNAs) and nurses in their clinics who have Millicent states, that at the end of the mission, she hopes to have created awareness about the inadequate Kenyan health system and want to raise awareness about the

benefits of disease prevention and health promotion due to regular medical screenings, diet and nutrition, and lifestyle changes. Manyore wants Kenyans to know it is okay to ask their doctor to check their blood pressure and ask about their disease and what they can do to make it better. She is saddened that most Kenyans do not realize that it is ok to ask questions of the doctor and hopes that her medical mission to Kenya does much to change their situation.

Millicent Manyore is grateful for all the support for her medical mission and we wish her well. She plans to mount other medical missions in the future and to build on the successes of this current mission. Photo