

IHWA is Born!! Strategic Plan Developed!

Interfaith Health & Wellness Association become incorporated and was officially born on June 25, 2003 when it's 501c(3) status as a non-profit organization was received. Under the diligent and steady leadership of Mary Cleary, President and the founding Board of Directors— Martha Alligood, Abbi Bentz, Joan Ensink, Gae Faraone, Marge Sullivan and Terri Touhy—the organization has moved quickly to begin operations.

In mid-September, Selma Verse, RN, MEd was named as the Executive Director (see story below). Under her leadership the mission and strategic plan was refined. In the **mission statement**,

Interfaith Health and Wellness Association, Inc. (IHWA) is committed to the support and education of registered nurses who serve their congregations and communities by promoting care of the body, mind and spirit for healing and wellness.

SUPPORT is defined as providing:

- **community referral services**
- **information on funding resources**
- **development information and mentoring for faith-based nursing practice**
- **a library of resources related to**

the community and faith-based nursing practice

- **a network within Palm Beach County for practicing faith-based nurses to communicate**

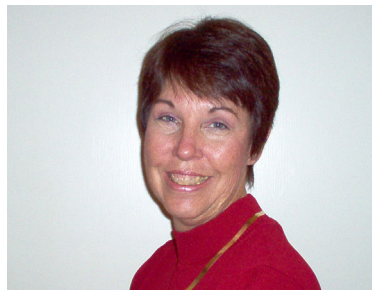
EDUCATION means:

- **surveying nurse's needs**
- **offering the "Standard Parish Nurse" curriculum to practicing and interested nurses in Southern Florida**
- **offering conferences, workshops and seminars on area-specific topics of faith-based nursing practice**
- **offering informational materials to the community relative to faith-based nursing practice**

The Board of Directors further established four (4) areas for initial organizational development: operations, programs, funding, and marketing. Each area has been defined with corresponding activities and resources. Initially, a Board member is responsible for leading an Advisory Council (volunteers from the informal membership of IHWA) that has the task of implementing that area's activities. ***Seize the Opportunity: Volunteer for an Advisory Council! Respond: E-mail— IHWAssoc@aol.com or Ph: 561. 379.1972***

Meet the Executive Director

Ms. Selma Ann Verse RN, MEd, brings to the Executive Director's position extensive experience from nursing service, education and administration. She received her BSN from West Virginia University and an MEd in nursing education from Teacher's College at Columbia University. Her most recent position was as the Associate Dean of Nursing & Wellness at Palm Beach Community College where she had



*Selma Ann Verse, RN, MEd,
Executive Director*

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Faith-based nursing practice roles:

- *Health counselor*
- *Health educator*
- *Health advocate*
- *Referral liaison*
- *Developer of support groups*
- *Volunteer trainer*
- *Integrator of faith and health*

Faith-based Nursing is Alive and Well in Palm Beach County

A survey of congregations, now in progress within the county by IHWA, is indicating that several churches include a "parish" nurse on their staff. These nurses work from 10 to 20 hours per week with an average salary of \$25/hour. Parish nurses are found in the following congregations: St. Joan of Arc and St. Jude Catholic Churches in Boca Raton; Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church in Lake Worth; and Christ United

Methodist Church of the Palm Beaches.

Christ Fellowship in Palm Beach Gardens has a unique Healthcare Advocacy Ministry that uses a variety of volunteer healthcare professionals to assist its over 10,000 members navigate the healthcare system.

Many congregations indicate that they are actively exploring a health ministry that will include nursing. IHWA has

provided initial consultation to: Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Lake Worth; St. Mark's Catholic Church in Boynton Beach; Temple Beth El in Boca Raton; First Presbyterian Church of West Palm Beach; and, St. Francis Catholic Church in Riviera Beach.

In the upcoming months, IHWA will release a complete report on the survey results.

Seize the Opportunity! Volunteer are needed to assist with the phone surveys! To respond: Ph: 561.379.1972 Email: IHWAssoc@aol.com



Faith-based nurses assist individuals so that they do not "fall through the cracks" of our healthcare system.

Upcoming Event to attract nurses * * * *

Nursing Expo sponsored by the Palm Healthcare Foundation will be at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on May 6, 2004 (9am-5pm) and May 7, 2004 (9am-2pm). Many opportunities will exist for nurses, students and the community to explore the diverse opportunities in the nursing profession. This

event will be followed on Friday at 6:30pm with a celebratory dinner at the Kravis Center that will honor outstanding nurses in the community.

IHWA will be offering an introduction to faith-based nursing on Friday, May 7th

from 10:30 am until 12noon.

Check-up time: Is There Spirit in Your Nursing Practice will assist nurses to evaluate the meaning of their practice, learn about "parish nursing," and hear from local nurses working in faith-based practice.

For more information on the event, check the website:

Wellness means attention to the

BODY

MIND

&

SPIRIT

Did You Know??? IHWA NEEDS HELP!!!

IHWA is looking for individuals interested in assisting with:

Area of Need:

- The newsletter
- The booth (May 6 & 7th Nursing Expo)
- Surveying congregations via telephone

Skills Needed:

- Collect information and/or write articles
- Time on May 6 and/or 7 to maintain IHWA's booth
- Phone and ability to communicate using a script

Seize the Opportunity: Volunteer for one of these great ways to get involved. To respond:

E-mail: IHWAssoc@aol.com or

Phone: 561.379.1972



Palm Beach County has three mosques: Boca Raton, Lake Worth and Belle Glade

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WE WILL SOON BE ON THE
WEB AT IHWASSOC.ORG

Resource CORNER:

Internet websites:

1. International Parish Nurse Resource Center— www.ipnrc.org
2. American Nurses Association—www.nursingworld.org
3. Florida Nurses Association—www.floridanurse.org/
4. Florida League for Nursing—www.thefln.org

Website articles:

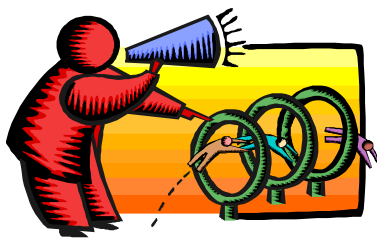
1. **What is Parish Nursing?** ... Information for Parish Nurses. The International Parish Nurse Resource Center offers a brief overview of parish nursing. ...
<http://www.parishnursing.umaryland.edu/whatis.asp>
2. **Parish nursing** is one of the newer, yet older models of health care delivery. ... I myself enjoy parish nursing because all of the-
ses roles. ... <http://www.stbern.org/Parish%20Nursing.htm>
3. **Historically**, the origins of parish nursing can be traced back to the early centuries where churches were places of healing.
http://www.saintmarysreno.com/mission/parishnurse/index.php?d_subID=6
4. **Parish Nursing:** Service and Care Within the Faith Community by Dr. Ruth I. Stoll, DNSc, RN.
<http://www.pdna.org/Career/parishnur.htm>

Books:

1. Solari-Twadell and Mary Ann McDermott. Parish Nursing: Promoting Whole Person Health Within Faith Communities. London: Sage Publications: 1999

Funding Possibilities:

1. www.grantstation.com
2. www.LiteracyCenter3.com



Striving to keep us together and
moving forward.

(continued) Meet the Executive Director

responsibility for nursing and three (3) other health related programs. She is well known in the education and healthcare fields in Palm Beach County, the State and nationally. Active in professional nursing activities, she is: a site visitor for the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission; and, provides varying levels of leadership for the Florida Nurse's Association, the Florida League for Nursing, the Governor's Council for Community Health Partnerships and the Rotary Elder Programs. In 2000, she received the FNA Nurse Educator of the Year and the FSNA Dean of the Year awards.

Ms. Verse has been active in Parish Nursing since the mid 1990's. Having attended many workshops within the Presbyterian Church USA Parish Nursing Network and the Parish

Nurse Preparation Institute, she is actively practicing nursing at the Second Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale. A major part of her practice involves resources and advocacy for the elderly. In partnership with the Outreach Division of Holy Cross Hospital, health fairs and school-health/immunization clinics are offered at the church.

As an administrator, educator, community volunteer and leader, Selma Verse is a positive addition to IHWA.

