

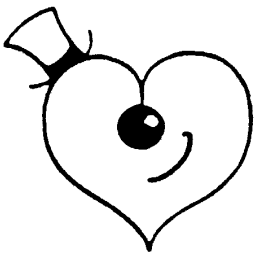
Hospital Clown Newsletter

A Publication for Clowns in Community and World Service

Published Quarterly, HospitalClown.com, P.O. Box 8957, Emeryville, California 94662 – Vol. 7, No.1



From Top left: Dr. Doo Diddily (Catherine Porrier). Nurse Sonshine (Carol Hart). Dr. Nose All (Ken Runquist).bottom Dr. Gigglebritches (Loretta DeAngelus), Dr. Funnybones (Marie Beck) and Nurse Non Cents (Nancy Rosekrans)



Clowns on Rounds

From Upper New York State comes *Clowns on Rounds, Inc.*®

Clowns on Rounds are paid professional entertainers "disguised as clown doctors." They service not only children, but the entire population of the hospital. Depending on the facility, they make "rounds" once or twice per week. The clown doctors work up to five hours per day.

Michael Reagan a.k.a. "Dr. Yikes" was the motivating force behind this program. He started clowning after observing how his aunt responded to a clown at her nursing home. With pledges from 10 doctors he set up the first pilot program in 1992 patterned after the

Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit® based in New York City. Michael has since gone on to other adventures, but *Clowns on Rounds* has continued to grow and spread over the entire Capitol Region of Upstate New York. A great deal of this success is because of the efforts of Elaine Person who is now the Executive Director and Dr. Gigglebritches (Loretta DeAngelus) who is the Program Director.

This is one of the most successful Hospital Clown Programs in the world and can serve as a model to all of us.

Continued on Page 3



Program Notes



“There is a magic that goes along with the hospital clowning that is hard to explain if you haven't done it.”

Above Loretta on the cover of COAI Jan/Feb 2000 Calliope

Loretta DeAngelus, R.N. ~ Program Director

Clown Doctors

We have obviously chosen to wear lab coats which have our logo on the back. Each clown decorates the coat differently. I've shortened mine so it is just flipped up which gives me an extra row of 6 pockets on the inside. You can put little give-aways in these.

We choose the lab coats to give us the facade that we are medical personnel. We are RN's (Ridiculous Nurses) and Pretending Physicians. The lab coats give us that persona. We all have our own personalities. I love to wear buttons. It's almost like you're a walking billboard. People love to stop and read your buttons. Usually they read them out loud. They even notice when you are wearing new buttons.

Program Population

We are not just a program for a children's hospital. We see kids of all ages. Our program focuses on everyone. Many people will come up to us and say "Oh you're here for the kids today." I say "We are here for kids of all ages."

We try to go in, make the room sparkle and leave, but sometimes more is needed. We are fortunate in that we don't have to see a certain number of patients a day, although we do try to visit specific floors. This allows us the luxury of spending more time with patients that need it. We are not pushed to a time limit. No hit and run; however, we don't try to overstay our welcome either. With experience we get a feel for this.

Isolation Rooms

We have chosen in our program not to go into isolation rooms. There is very specific medical protocol for each isolation case. We as clowns may not have sufficient knowledge to handle this protocol. Also we see so many people throughout the day that

hygiene can be an issue even if we are robed and masked. We do, however, make it a point to leave a little give-away for the isolated patient.

Program Evaluations

Objective: In order to insure that our program is providing the best service possible, an evaluation from the patients, *Clowns on Rounds* supervisors and the facility staff member has been established.

Purpose: Questionnaires evaluate our employee's appearance, attitude, observation of safety regulations and procedures, and opinions on their entertainment value. It will also gauge the program's effectiveness with regards to the effects the *Clowns on Rounds* program has on the mood of the patients and overall hospital environment during, as well as after the clowns' visit.

We do evaluations after a pilot program and every 6 months. Here are the 10 "yes" and "no" questions. There is also a place for comments.

An important point is that this simple questionnaire can give staff a chance to be part of the program process. The results of the questionnaire are discussed with a designated representative from each facility.

Program Evaluation Questions

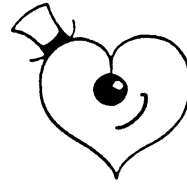
- Do the *Clowns on Rounds* employees maintain a clean and professional appearance?
 - Do the *Clowns on Rounds* employees maintain a pleasant attitude throughout the facility?
 - Do the *Clowns on Rounds* employees always stop at the nurse's station to be briefed?
 - Is the entertainment provided appropriate for the patient's condition?
 - Do the *Clowns on Rounds* employees leave in an appropriate time frame?
 - Is the humor used appropriate for the audience intended?
 - Are the *Clowns on Rounds* employees observing appropriate safety and infection controls?
 - Does the mood of the patients appear to be improved following a visit from the clowns?
 - Does the general mood of the unit (staff, visitors) appear to be improved?
 - Would you like this worthwhile program to continue?
-

Board of Directors

Their function is to set guidelines and establish policies that will ensure that the mission of the corporation is carried out. At present there are 19 board members, including a president, secretary and a treasurer. We have encouraged representatives from our five hospitals to serve on our board. Board members meet quarterly.

Elaine Person

Executive Director of *Clowns on Rounds, Inc.*



Funding Clowns on Rounds

by Elaine Person

Our program cost is \$7500 for a one-day per-week program and \$15,000 for a two-days per-week program. This provides a clown doctor or nurse for five hours a day, for fifty weeks a year. This amount covers staff payroll, health insurance, lab coats, give-a-ways and handouts. Our clowns get approximately \$21 per hour. They work from two half-days to three days per week depending on the clown and the facility.

Clowns on Rounds (CoR) has developed several sources and methods of funding our programs and expenses. Over the years, we have had to be very creative to maintain our programs and to cover administrative costs like the administrator's salary, education, worker's comp and insurance. Currently, we are in six hospitals and they are funded as follows:

- Glen Falls Hospital - private Sandy Hill Foundation donated funds to the Hospital Foundation for a five-year duration
- Saratoga Hospital - Saratoga Cares Hospital Foundation
- Ellis and Sunnyview Hospitals - funded by the William and Estelle Golub Foundation
- St. Clare's Hospital - St. Clare's Hospital Foundation
- Veterans Administration Medical Center - Plaintiff

100% of the funds provided by these organizations goes to pay for the programs in those facilities. The New York State Elks, Telephone Pioneers, local HMO's, memorial funds and private donations funded programs in previous years at the VA, at other hospitals and a nursing home.

Over the years, we have conducted two fund raisers each year to cover administrative expenses. The Roast and the Haunted Houses.

The Roast

Starting six years ago, we began "roasting" a prominent member of the community at a special dinner. Most of the personalities love the program so much they are willing to get roasted. Supporters of CoR and friends of the "Roastee" would become honorary chairpersons or buy tickets to the dinner. We get a list of friends from them and contact these people to do the "roasting." We send out a letter asking for honorary chair people, they pay the big bucks -- \$100, \$250, \$500, \$1000 with various numbers of dinners included. With this they get their names on the invitations and dinner program.

The price per plate for individuals is \$50. Usually we get a restaurant that works very well with us and will only charge us \$20 for the entire meal including appetizers. So we do make a little money at that as well, but most of the money comes from the honorary chair people. Our 2002 Roast will honor Albany's very popular mayor, Jerry Jenvnings. On these roasts we make from \$8,000 to \$10,000 and they are a lot of fun.

Elaine Person has been a charter member of the *Clowns on Rounds* Executive Board since 1992, providing thousands of volunteer hours working on fund-raising events. In early 1998 after retiring from a career at AT&T, she took the position of Executive Director. Since assuming this position, humor therapy programs have been added to two area hospitals, one nursing home, and the Double H Hole in the Woods Ranch.

Elaine together with her husband, Tom, have been long-term foster and adoptive parents to sixteen children over the last 23 years. Eight of those kids as well as Elaine and Tom have been or are clowns. Elaine's clown is *Val N. Tine* and Tom is *Mac N. Tosh*.

She shares her administrative abilities with the clown world. She co-chaired the COAI Northeast Clown Convention in 1999 and is co-chair for the 2002 COAI International Clown Convention that will be held in Saratoga in April 2002. For the first time ever, a full circus will be taking place during the convention.

In addition to her involvement with *Clowns on Rounds*, Elaine is Vice President of RID-Remove Intoxicated Drivers-Capital Region, Chapter and Council Clown Director for the Telephone Pioneers, Community Service Chairperson for the Pioneer Life Member Club, and serves on the Albany County Traffic Safety Committee. She has served on the high school cabinet, been PTSA president, chaired numerous after prom parties. In addition, she instructs parent and community organizations in how to set up after prom parties, mentors new foster parents and participates in a parent support group for parents of children with attention disorder.

Elaine's many awards include: BPOE Elks Mother of the Year, Chapter and Region Telephone Pioneer of the Year, Electric City Clown Alley Founder's Award, Albany County Stop DWI Award

Haunted House Fund Raising

The haunted house at a local Apple Festival (designed by Peggy Were, a CoR board member) raises about \$3000. At the same festival, clowns from Electric City Clown Alley and the Telephone Pioneer Clowns sell face painting, balloon animals and helium balloons to raise another \$1500 each year. Last year, a second haunted house built by volunteers for CoR and run by D.A.R.E. volunteers brought in an additional \$2000. CoR volunteers come from board members, staff, local clowns, friends and family.

There are other donations. In December 2001, we were fortunate to receive a \$10,000 donation from a wonderful 89 year-old lady. We are currently developing a new humor therapy program specifically designed for area hospice patients in hospital hospice wards and in their homes. CoR will also be one of the three organizations to benefit from the proceeds of the 2002 COAI International Convention to be held in Saratoga Springs April 16 - 21, 2002.

Expanding Our Program

We have had a strong presence in the Capitol Area of New York State since 1992. To expand our program, we send out proposals to the hospitals in our area. For example, we sent Saratoga Hospital and Glen Falls Hospital proposals. Saratoga responded almost immediately. We did a presentation, and they said they would fund a pilot study. Dr. Gigglebritches (Loretta DeAngelus) did the pilot program and they wanted to continue, so Dr. Nose All (Ken Runguist) took over and clowns there two days per week. A man from Glenn Falls saw a newspaper article on the Saratoga Clown Program and said "I want that program for our hospital." He turned out to be on the hospital board. Now the Sandy Hill Foundation funds the program at Glen Falls Hospital.

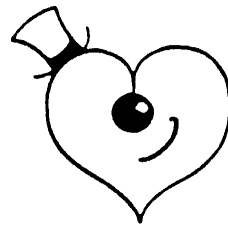
The funding for the Mercy Care Life Center, a nursing home actually came from the family of a former resident. They paid for the program anonymously for one year. That program has come to an end and we are looking for funding for that program.

We don't ask nor do we take funding from the patients. If the patients say they want to donate to the program, we answer "I really appreciate that, but what we really could use is a letter from you to the hospital expressing how much you appreciate the program." It gives us something to show the hospital. This is very important for our reputation.

Clowns on Rounds, P.O. Box 6364, Albany, NY 12206

www.clownsonrounds.com

Eperson@capital.net



The Clowns of Clowns on Rounds



These are the original *Clowns on Rounds*: Dr. Yikes ~Mike Regan; Dr. Gigglebritches ~Loretta DeAngelus and Dr. Oops ~Bill Hart.

Dr. Gigglebritches - Loretta DeAngelus is a RN (registered nurse) has been clowning for 20 plus years. Her professional clown is La*Dee*Dah, She has been with Clowns on Rounds almost from the beginning and became the Program Director in 1998. Loretta was the COAI Clown of the Year for 2000.

When Mike Regan and Bill Hart were starting *Clowns on Rounds*, they asked me if I would be interested in doing clowning in the hospital. I told them that I wasn't sure I could do it. Mike reassured me that I would be great at doing this type of clowning. I reluctantly said that I would at least go around with them to see if it were anything that I could do. I was really intrigued. I am a registered nurse (not that this is a prerequisite) and I think I really felt comfortable in a hospital setting because of it.



That was about 9 years ago, and since then, I've been working two days a week and have become the Program Director. I love my work and feel that I have been blessed to be able to get up in the morning, knowing that I will be helping others and bring a bit of joy into their lives.

One of the most important things I have learned in my travels is that a smile is one of the most rewarding gifts a person can give or receive. Something special happens when the muscles in your face exert the energy necessary to lift the corners of your mouth. This little exercise is probably the most beneficial known to man. We have all heard the expression a smile is worth a thousand words. I think that underestimates the power of a smile.



A smile brings such a strong message -- it can break through a language barrier, or it can be a language all its own. It can acknowledge your presence. It can express pride, agreement or make an uneasy situation bearable. A smile can bring sunshine on an otherwise sad and dreary day. Whether it is your smile or a smile someone gives you, a smile is a powerful tool.

In my clowning travels I came across this most invaluable tool in a very unusual form. The *Smile on a Stick*. This prop packs small but plays big. It's a hand out for young and old. It can be a remembrance of time we spend together or a help to get your feelings across even if you don't physically feel like smiling.



A *Smile on a Stick* can be passed onto someone else to have the "smile chain" continue. It has been my experience that many parents, as well as staff, are delighted to receive a smile on a stick and look forward to passing it on to a grandchild, niece/nephew or friend. It can be used as a prop in a show. When I open my "bag of tricks" and see a *Smile on a Stick* it always

makes me smile.

My fondest memory connected to *Smile on a Stick* is of a young man afflicted by Guillian-Barre Syndrome. This disease effects the proper functioning of the muscles in the body. When I met this young man his first act was to apologize for not smiling. He explained the muscles in his face were not working and he hadn't gotten his smile back yet. My reply, "have I got something for you!!!" I reached into my bag and pulled out the smile on a stick and presented it to him. When the young man saw what I had in my hands he was moved to tears. He thanked me warmly. He explained he was extremely anxious to show his three year old son, who couldn't understand where his daddy's smile went.

One day as I was approaching the nurses station on the Oncology floor at one of my hospitals, a Hospice case worker came up to me and asked me if I could visit with her patient. After getting clearance from the nurse, I knocked on the door and asked permission to enter. The patient shared with me that she loved clowns and wished she was a clown. I explained "This is your lucky day! You are scheduled for a *Red Nose Transplant*," and I went on "For a red nose transplant, you get to pick your nose this time." I held out several clown noses. "Wow it looks great on you." After the transplant, she said "I'll remember this day forever." Then I did a routine which produces a brass smiley ring into the patient's hand. She was beaming with a smile from ear to ear and put the ring on immediately. She said, "Oh, I wish I had a camera." The hospice worker said she'd be back on Thursday with her camera. "That's a date!" I said. On Thursday I knocked on the door to get permission to enter, the Hospice worker looked up "Oh no, I forgot the camera" Suddenly, a thought came into my mind: "Security must have a Polaroid camera to do documentation for accidents. I'll put a call in to Security." Sure enough, they came right up. The patient proudly donned her red nose, said "CHEESE" and we had a great Kodak moment.

A month later, I saw the patient's daughter in the hall. She told me that her mother was again in the hospital "Would you mind going in to see her? But I don't think she remembers too well anymore" I assured her that it didn't matter to me, I would love to see her

mother again. I entered the room and her mother immediately said, "I remember you!" She apologized for not having her red nose with her, but she proudly showed me that she still had the ring on. I was touched. We had a wonderful visit and then I left.

A few months later, I saw patient's daughter who informed me that her mother had passed away. I offered my condolences. Then she related to me how much my visits meant to her mother. She said that once she put the smiley ring on, she wore it everywhere. She said she NEVER took it off. She said that she loved that ring so much that they felt it was fitting to bury it with her. Tears filled my eyes as she thanked me for sharing the gifts of joy and laughter with her mother in her final days.

Dr. Funnybones ~ Maria Beck Dr. Funnybones (Marie Beck) is in St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady and has been clowning as Mischief the Clown for 20 plus years. She also runs a Christian clown organization called The Joyful Joeys. Maria was COAI 1999 Clown of the Year.



Dr. Funnybones is a Pretending Physician and has worked at Saint Clare's Hospital in Schenectady, NY a couple days a week for the last 3 years.

My nephew, Mike Reagan (Dr. Yikes) saw me visiting his wife's elderly grandmother when she was a patient in the hospital. He was so impressed with the outcome of the visit and how much it helped her that he decided that this is what he wanted to do.

Snappy (Bill Hart) and I taught Mike the art of clowning and his only goal as a clown was to clown in the hospital. He then saw Michael Christian (from The Big Apple Circus Clown Care Unit do a presentation on the hospital program. He did all the initial

leg work and promotion to start the *Clowns on Rounds* program and asked me if I was interested. I was interested, but at the time had a full time job with New York State. When the program got off the ground, I was the back up clown to cover for some of the others if they were sick or needed a day off. After I retired from my State job, I started to work as Dr. Funnybones for the *Clowns on Rounds* program on a regular basis. I have been doing that for three years, although, I have been involved longer than that.

I can't tell you how many times I have stepped into a patient's room and introduced myself only to have them say "Oh, I know who you are. I met you when my husband was in the hospital. He just loved you." Then they proceed to tell my that the husband has since passed away, but how much it meant to have me stop. They also say, "I still have the picture that you signed for him."

Also, I can't count how many times I have stopped into the Lab when they are ready to draw blood from a child and they say how I got there just in time. Usually I blow bubbles and have my bubble

eating bird eat them. Sometimes I show the child that I have stickers or tattoos to give to them after the procedure. I also give them a picture of me and a bottle of bubbles to take home with them.

One routine that I like because it packs small and I can get a lot of mileage out of it is as follows:

With a small key chain chicken, attaching a blue string/rope or piece of yarn, I swing the chicken on the bottom of the rope, and ask "What is this?" Usually people say something like, "Oh, it's a dead chicken" or "A duck on a rope!" I say "No, It's a swinging chick." Then I swing the rope in a circle and ask again, "What is this?" They answer, "A flying chicken!" I say, "Close, but no cigar. It's poultry in motion." Then I wrap the chicken in the rope and again ask, "What is this?" They say something like, a choked chicken. Again, I say "No, it's is Chicken cordon blue (cord on blue)." I usually get a groan on that one. Then, last but not least, I have attached a key chain boxing glove on the other end of the rope (I have usually had that hidden in my hand so no one has had a chance to anticipate what I will be asking next). I then hold the rope in the center and swing the chicken and boxing glove next to each other and again ask, "What is this?" Response is sometimes "boxed chicken." I say that was good, but the final answer is "TYSON Chicken". Sometimes at this point people will give me new ideas for my chicken joke.

Another thing that I like to use is a magnet that I found that looks like lips and it smacks like a kiss when you touch it. We give out pictures of our clown character and I usually say "This picture will save you a thousand words and it will also prove that I was here. I don't want people to think that I was just a figment of your immagic-nation. I sometime take the magnet and say I will leave them with a kiss. I press the lips, make the kissing sound and stick a "Kiss Sticker" on my picture of if they want on their cheek or hand. It works for me. [Maria got the magnet at a Disney store]

Nurse Non Cents ~ Nancy Rosekrans is a school bus driver. Between her morning and afternoon runs, she gets into face and goes over to the VA Hospital. She is COAI 2002 Clown of the Year



"Nurse Non Cents" is the one that can give you all the non-sense you could ever want and then some! A couple of years ago it was possible for me to keep my regular job and also visit the VA hospital a couple of times a week between school bus runs. It is a very busy schedule, but very rewarding.

All my kids on the bus know that I do the hospital clowning and I get a chance to tell them about some of my clown antics with the patients. There are no children and only a handful of women in the Veterans Hospital.

Once I entered in a room of a patient who hadn't responded to anyone since he arrived at the VA. But, the man reacted to me and we talked and laughed. The nurse was ecstatic over that. It was a good feeling when the nurse took me out of the room and told me about his patients reaction

I use the same makeup for hospital and for my clown business. Well, here's the story on my make-up. I started out with complete auguste face covering -- some white over the eyes (outlined with black pencil), painted red nose (outlined with black pencil), red cheeks (to represent rouge) The red lips really looked like a kid who had gotten into Mom's makeup! A while back I saw a couple of the clown doctors from New York's Clown Care Unit, their make-up was so simple, that I gave up on the fancy stuff. I now wear a simpler makeup. But I have a line that goes with the makeup when the men (or women) say, "Well, don't you look cute." or something to that effect. I say, "Now how do you like my makeup, I did it myself. Do you think I over did it, a little?" To which I wait for whatever they will say. Then I say, "Well, ya know I was always told that every old barn needs a good coat of paint!"

Dr. Do Diddily ~ Catherine Porrier is the newest of the clowns and works at Glen Falls Hospital where she is an X-Ray technician when she is not doing Clown Rounds.

I am Dr. Doooooo Diddily, and I have a lot of fun at the hospital here and a lot of emotional times spent with the patients.

I heard about the *Clowns on Rounds* program at a convention in Albany. I mentioned that if the program ever came north that I would definitely be interested, gave my number and low and behold it happened! I already work at the hospital as an x-ray technologist so I knew my way around, been there 14 years and have gone per diem now in x-ray. I can see right through those patients....

There is so much you can do with Time! Having seven or 8 watches on your right arm, patients are always hesitant but curious to ask for the time. With a wry smile I respond with; " I have a lot of time on my hands today! I've got plenty of time for you!" I may then pull the foam word TIME out from my doctors bag saying that time is on my side, placing it on my waist. Another small prop comes out from the bag, a small can of the herb THYME, saying ;"I never really realized how much time I really had!!!" In my closing I will say;" Time is fun when you're having flies!...No that's not right! It's: Time flies like an arrow....and fruit flies like a banana!"

One memorable moment occurred on a visit to the hospital. I walked onto the 3rd floor and was surrounded by staff begging me to visit the "mean lady" at the end of the hall. I often think she



was put there in that location on purpose. The nurses were so stressed trying to provide her with appropriate healthcare, she was very hard to deal with they warned me. As I approached her door her retired physician husband met me saying, "She will eat you alive!", "Yikes," I thought, "A challenge!" We visited for more than 30 minutes. Half way through the visit she smiled, then she began laughing and we talked about her past some. We really were having a great time laughing so hard, it was amazing. I left her with a few goodies then was escorted out by her husband. In the hallway he thanked me over and over, reached out for my hand and with a firm grip, tears in his eyes he was very emotional over what he had just witnessed. She let her guard down, took off that heavy suit of armor that was using all of her energy to haul around and let people in her life again. I met her husband a few months later and he said that she was doing well and her attitude had changed a lot. After that visit I felt as though I had made a real difference in someone's life and not just the patient, relatives and staff as well. This experience makes it worth everything!

Nurse Sonshine ~ Carol Hart has been with *Clowns on Rounds* 1½ years. She works for the State of New York in a job share arrangement. She works 2 days one week and 3 days the next week. In between she clowns at a nursing home



I love using the jumping frog, the one that has a pump on it. This is how the story goes:

This is a story of recovery. I got this pet frog a couple of months ago and he fell over a rock and broke his leg. I had to bring him to the hospital, he had to have a cast and then he went to Physical Therapy.

You know how sometimes it can start slow (you turn him over and press a little on the blow up so his legs move out half way SLOWLY a couple of times) and slowly say "1, 2, 1, 2, 1, 2," and then say "then a couple of weeks later" (again press so legs go out all the way but SLOW) and slowly say "1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4" and say "after a couple of months, he is all better" (press so legs go out all the way and come

back FAST a few times) and quickly say with the movement "1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4, 1, 2, 3, 4."

Then turn him over so he hops on your hand and say, "Sometimes it takes a little while to recover." They really love it, laugh a lot and can relate to it.

My mom, age 90, had moved in with me and my family for a year and a half because she had Alzheimer's. Then she broke her hip and went into St. Clare's Hospital. Because she had pneumonia every other month, they couldn't put her in the nursing home so I was at the hospital a lot and got used to going there. After she passed away at 92, I had a lot of time and decided I wanted to go

visit a nursing home (since my mom was 43 when she had me and an older mom - I have a heart for the elderly). Feeling I couldn't go as me, I decided to become a clown and ended up going to Schenectady Community College for Clown College with Snappy and also Marie Beck ("Mischief" the clown) who taught Clown Ministry. I had taken more classes with Marie and had joined the Joyful Joeys, a Christian Ministry Service, and then finally after a few years I felt more confident and asked to join *Clowns on Rounds*. I had done several months at Our Lady of Mercy Nursing Home when an opening at St. Clare's Hospital happened.

I love to go in and see the people's faces brighten as I walk in the door, saying, "You brought sunshine in!" And the joy of the one-day surgery patients as it keeps their minds off what is happening or what they have gone through. You can see the "kids inside" coming out saying, "You made my Day!" I want to say it has been a Blessing to me. By the way, Sonshine spelled this way is because the Joy and Laughter comes from God and my relationship with Jesus Christ. He makes me shine and for that I am so very thankful. Nursesonshine@aol.com

Dr. Nose All ~ Ken Runquist is a professional magician and juggler (Captain Jack) and works at Saratoga Hospital two days a week.

It's just me, Dr. Nose All. I'm not a real doctor. I'm just the back up doctor. When people see me they back up. I hope your day is going better than mine. This morning my wife said, "Honey, pack your bags, I just won the lottery!" I said, "Great, what should I pack for? A cruise, the beach...?" She said, "I don't care, just get the heck out of here."

Well, I packed extra, and I was late for work. My secretary yelled at me. She said, "Doctor, there's a man in the waiting room who claims to be invisible." I said, "Tell him I can't see him right now."

It didn't work. He grabbed me and said, "DOC, ya gotta help me, I feel like a pair of curtains!" I said, "Come now, pull yourself together!"

But things are starting to look up. My mechanic just called. He said he couldn't fix my brakes, but he could make my horn louder.

Then I had flowers sent to my wife. And I wrote a love poem. Would you like to hear it? It goes like this; "These flowers will soon die, but you will smell forever." Do you think that will work? Wish me luck, and... Keep on smiling!

There are so many aspects of being a part of *Clowns on Rounds* that I could write about. But I want to tell you how important the



Nursing staff is and how often they help to make *Clowns on Rounds* a success.

When a resident or patient's curtain is pulled or door closed, I can ask a member of the staff if the person in that room might like a visit. The staff is always eager to help. The staff may ask a patient, "Are you up for a visit? There is someone here to see you." Or, I have had a nurse say, "it's your new Doctor!" Then I come in! An introduction like that is so helpful, especially if the resident/patient is going through a particularly tough time.

Very often the staff "joins in" with visits and they laugh at all the jokes. Their cheerfulness encourages the patients and residents to laugh. This interaction makes the visit even more memorable.

On many occasions, as I am leaving, I overhear staff speaking to the patients and residents. The staff is redefining the experience that the patient/resident just had with me -- Dr. Nose All. All of these efforts, by the nursing staff, help to reinforce the positive aspect of the Clowns on Round visit.

I may have been with a person for five minutes, but the nursing staff are there 24 hours a day. They are the ones who do the day to day work to bring health and comfort to those in their care. We can never give them enough credit!

Clowns on Rounds Props and Give-Aways

Lots and lots of Red Clown Sponge noses; stickers; and bubbles

Coloring sheets of the clown character cartoons (pictured on these pages) with a little box of crayons

Photographs: We use a Polaroid Camera. As long as there is no negative and the photo is given to the patient, there is no need for photograph permission forms and releases.

Smiles on a Stick: The Bauer Group Inc. , 308 Main Street, Wilton, WI 54670 (800) 774-1231 FAX (608) 435-6500

In 2000 and again in 2002, CoR received very special donations from Dennis Halpin at CAPCOM - funds to purchase 1200 smiles -on-a-stick each year.



A free Bee.

This cute little bee card has a bunch of bee jokes on the back side.

Q: Who is the bees' favorite singer?

A: Sting!

Q: What do you get if you cross a bee with a door bell?

A: A hum dinger!

Q: What did the confused bee say?

A: To bee or not to bee.

Q: What's a bee's favorite flower?

A: A bee-gonia!



Smile Epidemic -- A real morale booster.

We get red carnations from the flower market and put a smiley face sticker on the stem with a lapel pin.



Dr. Gigglebritches approach: "I heard a rumor going around. It's true? There's a smile epidemic!" Then I pin on a carnation. "Now you have to spread this epidemic around."

So I give them 5 cards to spread around to anyone they want to spread the smile to. The cards are yellow with smiley faces on them saying "Good for Free Smiles - The Smile Epidemic - Pass it on - No expiration date" If they all give away all their cards, we projected this covers over 3,000 people! And staff look forward to the epidemic every month.

Window Chalk ~ Mirror and Window Drawing

It is important to clear this with housekeeping first. We get window chalk and write and draw on mirrors in hospitals. These are special pens with sponges on the end, and they wash off easily. Staff loves it. "Please go by and put something on my door." We draw hearts, smiles and holiday stuff.