

Headquarters for Hugs

Life Care's Corporate Plaza in Cleveland, Tenn., is a hub of energy, enthusiasm and renewal today as our directors of nursing have gathered here from around the United States for their annual meeting. It also is the Headquarters for Hugs as longtime friends are reunited and embrace new acquaintances.

The event is a landmark for our company – the 20th anniversary of annual meetings for these DONs who play such a vital role of service to Life Care's residents. It is a cause of great celebration, and the attendees have begun their time together in festive fashion.

They arrived by airplane and automobile on Saturday, and began Sunday with breakfast and a time of music and inspiration by Voices of Lee, the vocal group from Lee University that was a finalist on NBC television's recent *Sing Off*. Sunday afternoon was filled with activities including visiting the Tennessee Aquarium and IMAX Theatre, shopping at Hamilton Place Mall, bowling and dancing lessons. Sunday evening featured a return to the music of the '50s with a sock hop.

This morning opened with a patriotic ceremony, followed by an emotional introduction of the theme *Love Is the Difference*, presented by Kelly Wilcoxon, executive secretary to the president. She told how Connie Tyler, Diane Prater and Adele Anahory, the nursing team at Life Care Center of Ocala, Fla., showed their love for her dying stepmother in remarkable ways as they cared for her. "Love is why each one of you is in this room today," Wilcoxon said, "and what each of you shows every day, taking care of all of the Cindys [her stepmother] out there. Truly, love is the difference. I have greater respect for what you all do on a daily basis, and I thank you all."

Dee McCarthy, senior vice president for clinical services, President Beecher Hunter and Chairman Forrest Preston formally welcomed the nurses to the meeting. Christine Cashen was the keynote speaker, prompting laughter and inspiration on the subject *Why Can't Everyone Just Get Along?* Educational breakout sessions will dominate the afternoon today, and will be offered again Tuesday afternoon.

Tonight will be devoted to excellence in entertainment by world-class violinist Jaime Jorge and presentation of performance awards. Other keynote speakers include LeAnn Thieman, *What's This Generation Coming To?*, on Tuesday, and Bryan Townsend, *Making Good Things Happen*, on Wednesday. The meeting will close Wednesday morning with addresses by Hunter and Preston.

We welcome our directors of nursing to the 2010 annual meeting. May God bless you, both personally and professionally, for your service to His children.

– Beecher Hunter