

## Welcome, Nurses

An abundance of energy and a mountain of enthusiasm are apparent on the Corporate Plaza of Life Care Centers of America today. The 2008 annual meeting of directors of nursing has begun, and DONs and clinical leadership from around the country are assembled in Cleveland for the occasion.

The theme of the meeting is *Walk the Talk With Love*. Professing love for someone is always appreciated, but it is validated by our actions. That's why the theme for this year's meeting is so appropriate, and descriptive of the service rendered by our nurses. We thank them for what they say and for what they do in caring for our residents.

The meeting officially got under way Sunday morning with breakfast and a program of music and inspiration led by the Talley Trio. Sunday afternoon activities included whitewater rafting on the Ocoee River, a visit to the Tennessee Aquarium and Imax Theatre, shopping at Hamilton Place Mall, and tours that included an amphibious ride in Chattanooga and the Tennessee River, the Bluff View and Art Museum district, and Rock City and the Incline Railway. Sunday evening's ice breaker was the *Decade of the '80s*, with a costume contest, *Don't Forget the Lyrics* competition and a trivia contest, *Stuck in the '80s*.

Today's program began with a patriotic opening ceremony, a keynote address by LeAnn Thieman, co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Nurse's Soul: Second Dose*, a presentation by Dr. Jim Marcum on *Stress: The Hidden Danger*, and breakout sessions in the afternoon. Monday evening's highlight will be awards presentations. Keynote speakers Tuesday and Wednesday will be Elizabeth Jeffries, *Work as a Calling: Saying "Yes" When God Says "Go,"* and Donna R. Tyson, *Life's Balancing Wheel*. The annual *Looking Forward* segment Wednesday will be led by Cathy Murray, chief operating officer; Beecher Hunter, president; and Forrest Preston, chairman.

We are pleased to welcome our nurses to Cleveland.

--Beecher Hunter