

Suzanne Geimer, RN, CEN

Suzanne Geimer's wide and varied background in nursing, entertainment, and non-profit company leadership gives her the ability to relate to and effectively communicate with both upper management and those on the front lines in hospitals across the country. She has the ability to work with nursing staff and initiate effective problem resolution activity that will help the organization's nursing staff establish effective working relationships with the executive team.

Background

- **Over 30 years of healthcare experience.**
- **Nursing experience** in Surgery, Medical-Surgical, Chemical Dependency, Psychiatry, and Emergency Department.
- **Management experience** includes Manager Coronary Care, Supervisor Intensive Care, and Nurse Manager Free-Standing Emergency Medical Clinic. Other experience includes Mobile Intensive Care Nurse & Paramedic Instructor.
- Served as the **Chief Nurse Executive** for ten years at The Hilton Head Hospital in Hilton Head Island, SC
- **President of Special Angel Inc.**, a not-for-profit company she founded. The Special Angel Project uses music to educate young people about changing high risk behavior. Suzanne's motto is "Every kid in trouble needs a special angel and we all have it in us to be one."
- **ED nurse, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center** since 1990. For the past thirteen years, she has been a staff nurse and MICN in the Emergency Department - a Level One Trauma Center. She credits this as the single most important nursing job she has held and strongly believes that the most powerful person in healthcare today is the staff nurse. He/she can make or break a hospital. Her message is that it is extremely important to listen to the voice of the staff nurse. She has been highly successful at coaching and encouraging staff nurses to speak up in a professional and effective manner.
- **Served as** co-chair of the hospital-wide Professional Advancement Committee at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. She also served on the marketing committee for the new hospital wide shared governance implementation which gives staff nurses a bigger voice.
- In 2002, Suzanne started One Voice-Our Voice, a grass roots group of nurses at Cedars-Sinai who are against solving workplace problems through union involvement. This is an independent group of staff nurses, acting on their own. The goal is to encourage professionalism and respecting the right of all nurses to have a voice. Suzanne firmly believes that eventually, all nurses, and all healthcare professionals, have to come together to find solutions to serious problems affecting healthcare today.
- This highly motivated group kept the union out of their hospital at Cedars-Sinai, turning over an initial unionization vote in 2002 and causing the nurses' union to withdraw from a vote scheduled for October 2004. See www.onevoice-ourvoice.com for more information about this campaign.

- Combining knowledge and keen front-line observations made over the past seventeen years in her work with troubled youth, Suzanne realized that the same problems affect many nurses today. Low self esteem, negative peer pressure, gang mentality (“You need to join our group or you’re out. i.e., nurses eat their young.) The importance of modeling professional behavior and attitudes must be emphasized and realized through professional behavior modeling.
- Suzanne is a great motivator and truly inspirational with her “stories from the front lines” -examples of how we treat each other as nurses and as human beings and how we should treat each other.
- Suzanne stresses the key factors motivating staff nurses which, ironically, are the same factors motivating the many young people she has worked with over the years through The Special Angel Project. Using real life examples, sometimes even presented with a song, Suzanne makes her point and leaves you wanting to hear more.
- Suzanne Geimer, not your average nursing leader. We call her a cheerleader for nursing. If you need motivation and inspiration, a day with Suzanne can truly energize your staff. The power is within us all to solve the problems before us. We just need to learn to LISTEN more effectively and then ACT. If you want to solve the problems in your hospital. Listen to the staff nurses. Suzanne will tell you how.