

#### Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA

The Mission of Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA (FOW-USA), a nonprofit volunteer run organization, is to provide ostomy supplies and educational materials to help ostomates in need around the world.

#### We Get E-Mails

February, 2015

Adrian March has been consulting with Zimbabwe Support Trust (known as OZ), as we work with our client there, Joseff Muchesa. The pictures are examples of how inventive people may become if they don't have modern supplies.

I have received some [pictures] from the nurse, Frances, who is part of the team .... [This picture] is an example of a colostomy bag which has been in use two years, complete with string to tie it on, and seen in action... I hope perhaps

that you will find these useful, in showing what OZ is up against.

Best regards, Adrian March



July, 2015

#### Dear FOW-USA:

I also wanted to tell you a story from one of our patients. I don't have a photo as it happened when I was in the US. An older gentleman came to our surgery clinic. He'd had a colostomy done, for colon cancer, in another hospital. They sent him to Mbingo for chemotherapy. Helen, who works in the Wound Care Clinic, said that when he arrived he had a plastic bag taped around the stoma but it was coming off and stool was on his clothes and smeared all over his abdomen. She got him cleaned up, showed him how to apply the appliance, etc. Afterwards she told him it was too bad he didn't have fresh clothes to change into. He said, "I brought some with me", so she let him use our injection room and change into them. When he came out, clean and dressed in clean clothes, he was quite emotional and said to her, "Madam, I'm like a new man now. Look what you have done for me."

This is what you do for our patients who would have to live without supplies if you didn't supply them. THANKS SO MUCH TO ALL OF YOU!!!!

Carolyn Brown, RN, BSN, Certified Wound Care Nurse, Cameroon

June, 2015

In the past, we have sent supplies to Visedal Partnership, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that empowers Nicaraguan children who had worked on the streets to attend school in order to break their cycle of poverty. Three of our children are cared for by their great grandmother who has a colectomy due to cancer. She is unable to afford colostomy bags.

Here is a response from our contact, after we sent supplies in the summer, 2015:

[Silvia] continues to do well and it is always wonderful to see her. She lives almost an hour out of the city so getting to her is an adventure. She was extremely grateful for the medical supplies.

Please accept our deep thanks for what you and your organization does. Your actions positively change the quality of life for her and for her enormous family and community.

Marianne Waugh Visedal Partnership, Nicaragua

We have sent supplies to the Palestine Ostomy Association. This picture of one of the member's baby shows why we appreciate your contributions of pediatric supplies, along with those for adults.

June, 2015 Dear/ Ms Ruth/Mrs. Carol and Mr. Mickey Heideman,

Thank you. For all Members Friends of Ostomates Worldwide For helping. Thank you very much for your efforts to

help us in the arrival of supplies to Palestinian Ostomy Association.

#### Newsletter Fall 2015

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Send Supplies

and Contributions to

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FOW-USA Board of Directors September 5, 2015 St. Louis, MO

Dear Friends,

I was honored to begin service as the Friends of Ostomates Worldwide - USA President in August knowing that Jan Colwell would continue her outstanding work with the organization as its Past President. At our annual board meeting she provided a PowerPoint presentation of our year in review. Through her leadership and the dedication of a hard working board, the accomplishments were many. The nominating committee brought forth a slate of officers and board members that includes individuals with the experience and talents that will help our organization move forward. The finance committee continues to be fiscally responsible and manage our costs. The fundraising committee increased our revenue with an outstanding event and an appeal to donors. We received a large financial donation and dollars donated to celebrate special life events. The public relations committee produced dynamic newsletters, updated and reformatted our website fowusa.org and enhanced our social media presence. Our Power-Point presentation was updated and is available in English and Spanish and can be downloaded on our website for use at meetings. The Phoenix magazine highlighted our FOW-USA ad. Several board members attended national, regional, and local ostomy and WOCN conferences and manned a booth to provide information about our mission.

This year we made a record 93 shipments of donated ostomy products. Our warehouse recruited new volunteers and improved the summer working conditions with the purchase and installation of a huge fan. The database task force has worked to investigate and choose a company that will help us put together an integrated system to manage information.

We continue to collaborate with our industry partners who have been generous in their grants and services. The United Ostomy Associations of America (UOAA) board has approved a free ad for us on the home page of their website ostomy.org. and will continue to distribute our FOW-USA message to their affiliated support groups several times a year. The Phoenix magazine will feature an article in their winter issue about World Ostomy Day, October 3, 2015, from the FOW-USA point of view. The editor of Ostomy Canada magazine has asked us to submit an article for publication. We maintain an active relationship with Wound Ostomy Continence Nurses who support us with product and financial donations. We will expand our educational mission by supporting the training of nurses in ostomy care in developing countries.

Will we rest on our laurels? NO. At our board meeting held at the 2015 UOAA National Conference, Jan Colwell led us in a strategic planning exercise. We identified ways to improve our use of technology, expand our outreach, enhance our online presence, investigate new sources of product and financial donations, and secure new partnerships. We agreed that FOW-USA has a culture of caring. We care about the needs of ostomates around the globe and seek to alleviate their suffering with donated ostomy supplies. As a result we pay attention to the efficiency of our warehouse and shipping obligations. Our board and volunteers care enough to offer their time and talents to make the organization a viable one that can meet the needs of our recipients and use the donated funds in the most effective way. We know that you care as well, and we appreciate your continued support. Ann

#### **FOW-USA 2015 Service Awards**

Congratulations to the FOW-USA Service Award winners for 2015 – Mickey Heideman and Lang Secrest.

Mickey is our Treasurer and our "Warehouse Maven Extraordinaire." He has continually improved our Louisville, KY, warehouse space, making unpacking donated supplies easy and efficient for our volunteers – of any age, with any ostomy knowledge. He helps re-pack supplies for our recipients overseas and finds the most cost-effective means of shipping them.



Lang has been our data manager for a number of years, ensuring that we are connected to donors and supporters, both financial and product. She has also worked in our warehouses in Chicago and Louisville, the "fastest hands" we know in unpacking and sorting supplies. Pictured below, Ival Secrest accepting on Lang's behalf.



Both received their awards at the 2015 Board Meeting held in St. Louis. Thank you both for your incredible service.

#### Presidents & Volunteers: Past & Present

As the new Board of Directors is inducted, we must give a huge shout out and thank you to Ival & Lang Secrest for their undying loyalty and support to FOW-USA. Although no longer serving on the Board, their continued assistance to the efforts of FOW-USA must be recognized. In the quiet background, Lang has maintained our donor database for many, many years and I am certain is happy to see us move it to a different format. How do we EVER thank you for your tireless efforts? Ival, who served as President and held many other committee seats has been a backbone of FOW-USA. He stays in arm's reach to guide us along the way! We thank you both from the bottom of our hearts!

We also want to thank Immediate Past President, Jan Colwell, for her leadership and guidance over the past three years! She certainly raised the bar for FOW-USA helping us achieve some lofty goals; and at the same time, as the baton gets passed to Ann, we welcome in our new President who will guide us through the next set of goals and challenges to help continue our mission.

Ann brings with her an amazing repertoire of experience, passion and leadership unrivaled by anyone. We look forward to her guidance as she takes our new Board of Directors and the FOW-USA organization into the next phase of our journey. For those of you who don't know her...

Ann, an ostomate since 1988, holds a Master of Education from Westfield State University, MA and taught for 27 years. She was President of the Ostomy Association of Greater Springfield, MA from 1991-1995. United Ostomy Association Chapter Coordinator and Area Service Director from 1994 - 2000. She served as UOA Secretary 1996-1998, Vice President 1998-2000 and President 2000-2002. She has been a facilitator of the Venice, FL Ostomy Support Group since 2009. She continues to be the volunteer Secretary for the International Ostomy Association since 2005. She was FOW-USA Vice President 2013-2015. She is an individual member of the National Colorectal Cancer Roundtable. Ann has been a Lion for 35 years, first in the Agawam, MA Lioness Club and now in the Venice. FL Lions Club. She is First Vice President. Editor of their Newsletter, and coordinator of the volunteers who work at their monthly clinic that provides eye care for the needy. Ann is a published author. In her spare time, she loves traveling and going to the beach with her husband Ray, reading, writing, and cooking.

Join us in welcoming our new leader!

FOW-USA FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS Aug. 1, 2014 thru July 31, 2015

Thank you to all those listed below who have contributed to FOW-USA during the past fiscal year. If you are not on the list and should be, or if your name is spelled incorrectly, please e-mail <a href="mailto:info@fowusa.org">info@fowusa.org</a>.

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#### **Ostomy Pearls**

#### Emptying the Ostomy Pouch

By Nancy Schuller RN, WOCN

One of the important tasks that someone with a new ostomy must master is emptying the pouch. Providing an opportunity to practice prior to surgery when the person is in a less stressful setting is ideal, but not always possible. The task itself can be broken down into three parts.

The first part involves manipulating the bottom closure to allow emptying the pouch of its contents. The urinary pouch has a valve attached to the bottom of the pouch. The drainable stool pouch comes with either a separate closure clamp or an integrated flap that is folded on itself and secured.\* While this may seem like a simple step to master, sometimes physical conditions can make it hard for a person to do so. For example, pulling on the drainable pouch clamp to release the securing latch can be impossible for someone with limited mobility in their hands. In this instance, switching to an integrated closure, adding a loop, or building up the size of the "knob" may help.

The second part includes the actual process of getting the stool or urine into the toilet. Emptying the urinary pouch is a matter of aiming at the waste receptacle and turning the valve. Emptying the stool pouch presents different challenges. The drainable stool pouch has a wider bottom opening, stool is usually thicker and heavier than urine, and thus directing the stool into the toilet can be more difficult. In addition, if a bottom clamp is used, then holding onto it so it is easily retrievable can be problematic. While everyone eventually finds their own way that works for them, there are still some basic principles that are followed.

- 1. Empty the pouch when 1/2 or 1/3 full. Letting the pouch get too full can make it harder to control the emptying process. Also a too full pouch puts stress on the entire system that can result in less wear time or unexpected leakages.
- 2. Decide which position is best for you to empty into the toilet so that there is no spillage. This can be sitting on (front, backwards, or sideways) or standing over the toilet. Some people have been known to use a kneeling position. The emptying position may change depending on the bathroom accommodations and becoming more adept at the emptying procedure. Some men who have urinary pouches have been known to add extension tubing to the bottom of their valve to allow easier emptying while standing at the urinal.
- 3. Put some toilet paper into the toilet to decrease splashing while emptying.
- 4. Hold the bottom of the pouch up slightly and open the valve or tail closure. If a separate clamp is being used, make sure to decide where to safely put it. At this point, some people with fecal pouches will fold the tail end back on itself to make a "finger pocket or cuff" to help with directing the stool and making it easier to keep clean the tail end.
- 5. Lower the opening into the toilet. Slide your hands down the fecal pouch to push out the stool. To help ease thicker stool to get out, a pouch lubricant may be helpful.

The final step in emptying an ostomy pouch is cleaning up after getting everything out. While it is not necessary to rinse out either the current urine or stool pouches, it is necessary to pay attention to the bottom opening of the pouch. To prevent residual urine from staying in the valve and leaking on clothing, it is suggested to tap the nozzle to remove any last drops. For stool pouches, use toilet paper or tissue to wipe the opening off inside and out. Leaving a residual amount of stool besides getting on clothes can result in an odor.

\*Prior to development of these closures, many people used (and may still) a heavy duty rubber band.

**Our third annual FOW-USA Fundraiser** was held Sunday, October 25, 2015, from 2:00-5:00 pm at The Painted Penguin in Aurora, IL. Information can be found on our Website and we will have the full results report in the Spring 2016 edition. When we went to print, the Fundraiser Task Force members were hard at work hoping to make this year's event bigger and better than ever!

# World Ostomy Day MANY STORIES, ONE VOICE

Ann Favreau & Ruth Salinger

The theme of World Ostomy Day, October 3, 2015, was Many Stories, One Voice.

Friends of Ostomates Worldwide - USA hears stories from ostomates all over the world.

We respond with the voice that says, "Yes, we can help you." Although our mission is to provide donated ostomy supplies to help needy ostomates, we also give them hope. Hope that their voices are being heard. Hope that their pleas are answered. Hope that everyday life will be a little bit better. Hope that they can carry on despite their challenges. Our non-profit group reaches across the miles, transcends cultural barriers, and offers encouragement to improve the quality of life of countless ostomates. We are the voice of hope and help.

#### **Board Member Spotlight**

Welcome to one of our newest board members. Nancy Gutman. Nancy brings an extraordinary amount of experience and expertise to us! She is a Registered Nurse (1974) and WOCN since 1976; Board Certified (1988-present). She recently retired from St. Rita's Medical Center in Lima, Ohio after almost 41 years as an acute care WOCN. She cared for MANY ostomates, not only at SRMC, but neighboring hospitals. Nancy was also Medical Advisor for the Lima Area United Ostomy Group. She developed an outpatient stoma clinic at several hospitals and also volunteered for the Children's Medical Mission; teaching ostomy care to host families. She is now self employed and consultant to LTC facilities (wound care). She lives in Botkins. Ohio, where she recently celebrated her 40th anniversary with her husband, Ed. They have 4 children, and 4 grandchildren to also keep them busy. Nancy has volunteered to be very involved with our new database management.

Watch for more "Spotlights" in the Spring as we introduce you to our new Board of Directors.

FOW-USA Financials and the Annual Report are available from us upon request at info@fowusa.org.

#### 2014-2015 Shipping Synopsis

This year, FOW-USA made a record 93 shipments of ostomy supplies, totaling 13,400 pounds, with a retail value of \$670,500. At a shipping cost of \$30,840 the value of these shipments is priceless to the thousands of ostomates who received the supplies.

These products improved the lives and well-being of ostomates in 31 countries. From our inception, the total retail value of our shipments now have reached 15 million dollars worth of supplies!

Keep the unused supplies COMING!

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#### In Memorium Rita Wray 1928-2015

We were sad to learn that on June 23, 2015, one of FOW-USA's founders passed away; Rita Wray, wife of former UOA president Lou Wray, was a great advocate for ostomates. They were part of the small group of people who started what we know today as FOW-USA in the early 80's. They were the two people along with Norma Gill and Marilyn Thompson who made FOW-USA an effective outreach organization along with the board. These 4 people did most of the unpacking, packing, coordination with recipients, shipping and writing thank you letters, Rita wrote all of the "Thank You" letters using a typewriter. The database was on index cards (one set for financial contributions and another for Supply Donations) until about 1999 when Bob Hall developed the database we are now replacing in 2015. She will be greatly missed by her friends and family.

#### Thank You Ostomy Supply Donors

We are grateful to everyone who donated ostomy supplies to FOW-USA during the past year. Space limitations prevent us from printing the names of all the donors, but without your generosity we would not be able to provide ostomy products to developing nations around the world. Thousands of ostomates have benefitted from your generosity. Keep sending those ostomy pouches, face plates, powders, belts, skin products, tape, and other items, and especially pediatric supplies to our

warehouse at:
FOW-USA
4018 Bishop Lane
Louisville, KY 40218

# Database Update Your Info Needed!

This summer, FOW-USA began the process of migrating our "contacts" database from Microsoft Access to another provider. In doing so, we discovered that additional information was needed for each contact. "Access" allowed us to just have an email address and name. Our new database requires a name, email address and complete mailing address.

We sent out an email requesting additional information and some of you may have interpreted that as SPAM. It wasn't! It was a legitimate request made by us in order to update and maintain our records. We apologize for any misunderstanding or inconvenience. If you have not yet replied to our email, please do so now in order for us to continue to communicate with you.

Thank you all who came and visited our booth that the UOAA Conference in St. Louis.

We will be at the following upcoming Conferences in 2016. Visit us!

March 14-15, 2016 S. Central WOCN Conference Branson, MO

April 29-May 1, 2016 UOAA Mid-Atlantic Regional Conf. Washington Dulles International Airport, Sterling, VA

June 5-7, 2016 WOCN Society & CAET Joint Conference

Palais des congrès de Montréal Montreal, Quebec, Canada

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### Fall 2015 Newsletter

