

# Peak Press

Linking people, programs and services

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## Pikes Peak Volunteer Becomes Nursing Hall of Fame Inductee

Melva Steen graduated from nursing school in 1948 and began her career at the St. Louis State Hospital. After marrying and moving to many places with her husband in the military, she reentered the work force and worked in a variety of fields such as orthopedics, obstetrics and medical surgical nursing in several states. She had five children while working and returning to school.

Melva attended many schools, getting an MA in Education and later an MA in Counseling. She attended graduate school at the University of Texas at Austin receiving her PhD in Psychiatric-Mental Health Nursing in 1991. In 1992 Melva came to Colorado and taught at the University of Southern Colorado in Pueblo. She retired in 2002, after having done many things to enhance the school including initiating a Masters program, after which she served in the Peace Corps in Malawi, Africa from 2003-2005, initiating various projects which are continuing even to this day.

Many professional groups are lucky to have Melva as a member, including ANA, CNA and Sigma Theta Tau. She has been an avowed feminist since the 70's which has influenced many of the things she has done as a nurse and an educator.

In her own words: "I believe any thing a nurse does in the practice of his/her profession has an effect on society. After all, it is by social mandate that we have the profession of nursing. Since nursing is a profession and practices under a social mandate, it behooves every nurse to belong to their profession association, ANA, and to work to improve and protect the profession of nursing and the health of society."

Presently, Melva volunteers for the Southeast Branch of the American Red Cross Pikes Peak Chapter as a nurse and mental health worker and teaches the American Red Cross babysitting class.

Much of what she has done has enduring value, in particular, her work with USC, the Peace Corp, and her work on getting Female Genital Mutilation banned in Colorado, as well as many other activities.

Please welcome Melva Jane Steen to the CNA Hall of Fame.

### News in a Flash

Evacuees from the raging wildfires in California are receiving aid from the Pikes Peak Chapter. Nine volunteers deployed in just one week to assist with relief efforts. Thank you to:

**Maureen Biggers: Health Services, San Bernardino**

**Linda Buswell: Health Services, San Diego**

**Diane Chavez: Sheltering, San Diego**

**Ed Flannery: Sheltering, San Diego**

**Katy Lally: Public Affairs, San Diego**

**Eric Renschler: Sheltering, San Diego**

**Joan Schimmel: ERV Team, San Diego**

**Ted Slagle: ERV Team, San Diego**

**Melva Steen: Health Services, San Diego**

Anyone wishing to deploy may update their availability information by using DSHR Self Serve at <https://dshr.redcross.org>.

### Get a Kit, Make a Plan, Be Informed

The goal to help prepare Colorado through disaster education is underway with the *Be Red Cross Ready* program having reached 4600 citizens in the Pikes Peak Chapters 18 counties.

This program has been made possible by Americorps VISTA volunteers John Memmer and Mary Lowery, who will be with the chapter until spring 2008. The ultimate goal is to continue the program through the work of chapter volunteers. Anyone wishing to help Colorado *Be Red Cross Ready* may contact John at 719-785-2752 or Mary at 719-785-2731.

### Food, Fun and Funds at the Pikes Peak Center

It's not too late to get your tickets or lend a hand at the Pikes Peak Chapter's theatrical fund raising event next Friday, November 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ticketing and information on volunteer opportunities for *India: A Journey Through Time* can be obtained by contacting Paul Koch at 719-785-2721. See October *Peak Press* for additional details.