Ostomy Education Day

From Barbara Rozenboom, RN BSN CWON, Wound Ostomy Nurse Educator, Skiff Medical Center

Thank you to the Iowa Affiliate WOCN for sponsoring the first and what we hope to be, annual, Ostomy Education Day. The event was held Saturday, April 4th at Mercy Medical Center in Des Moines. We had 50 participants including ostomates, their support people and WOCN's. People came from as far away as Moline, IL and Sioux City, IA. Coloplast, Convatec and Hollister had representatives to display and demonstrate their products. The UOAA, Ostomy Secrets and KEM also sent information and products to display. Vendors were well received by the participants and each vendor reported they would participate again.

Despite some last minute speaker cancellations the program was a success. Dr Soren Kraemer, colo-rectal surgeon, spoke on the surgical aspect of ostomies. Maureen D'Alessandro, an ostomate and a home care nurse shared her ostomy story and adventures of participating in the Youth Rally. Mary Mahoney, CWOCN presented an inspirational audience participating activity. Gary Clark, pharmacist from Iowa Health Systems, discussed how having an ostomy can effect medications. The participant evaluations were positive and listed many suggestions for the next conference. Sioux City has voiced interest in hosting the next Ostomate Education Day.

Thanks to the education committee for their help: Jackie Perkins, Mary Mahoney, Barb Rozenboom, Rita Huntrods and Kiane Goebel and to Cathy Smith, Nancy Medick, Joyce Otto and Lynn Chandlee.
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