



2012

OSTOMY EDUCATION DAY

The program started with a presentation by Rachel Kautsky. Rachel is a wellness coordinator for Farm Bureau in Des Moines. She provided information on good nutrition, activity and stress relief.

Here are our stats:

Returning attendees - 39

First time participants -13

Vendors -21

WOC Nurse volunteers - 18



Key Note Speaker

We were honored this year to have one of Convatec's 2012 Great Comeback Award winners, Randy Henniger, as our keynote speaker. Randy shared his story of colon cancer survival and his life after colostomy surgery in 1989. Randy encouraged the audience members to share their stories and graciously answered their questions about tough subjects such as sexual dysfunction and family members who had difficulty dealing with his illness. Thank you to John Spegele and Ashley Daher from Convatec who worked diligently to bring Randy to Des Moines.





Thank you to the ostomy education committee for their effort and hard work. Rita Huntrods, chair, Nancy Medick, Tami Hoyt, Zoe Bishop, Sue Bruch, Shirley Zurcher, Joyce Otto, Mary Mahoney and Barb Rozenboom.



Our own Cathy Smith and Joyce Otto presented on peristomal skin issues and the expected progression of an ostomy in the first year postop. The “asks the ostomy nurse” panel is always a popular and requested feature.





During lunch, there were three breakout sessions where participants had the opportunity to network with people who have the same type of ostomies. There were ostomy nurses present facilitating the discussion and answering questions









Thank you to our WOC Nurse volunteers. Elaine Smith, Cathy Smith, Tammy Dietrich, Michelle Wenzel, Tammy Mensen, Valerie Knedler, Mary Lynn Papin, Laura Phearman. We were delighted to see some of our new WOC Nurses volunteering for this event.



We rounded out the day with time for attendees to browse through the vendor fair. The vendors generously give up a Saturday afternoon to spend time with people who utilize their products. They are eager to promote their products and answer questions people with ostomies have about appliances, accessories and services that are available to them.









The evaluations clearly reflect the appreciation the participants have for the opportunity to have an event dedicated to providing education, vendors and networking for people with ostomies. One woman stood and thanked the WOC Nurses for the care she received while hospitalized and for the support and education she gains by participating in her local ostomy networking group.



After all – isn't this what
being a WOC Nurse is all
about?



Thank you to Mercy Medical Center for
hosting the event and to Ernie our dedicated
AV man.