



**Contact:** Ralph Egües, Nursing Consortium of South Florida  
[REgues@cruzfox.com](mailto:REgues@cruzfox.com)  
305-669-9644

Liz Owens, Bernard Hodes Group  
[cowens@hodes.com](mailto:cowens@hodes.com)  
312-660-8457

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **FUTURE REGISTERED NURSES EXPERIENCE “A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A NURSE”**

*Nursing Consortium of South Florida’s annual program  
invites high school students to take glimpse at their future career*

**Ft. Lauderdale, FL – November 12, 2007** – A heart monitor registers the beat of a new born baby. CPR saves the life of a near-drowning victim. An elderly woman receives medication for her high blood pressure. Each of these jobs, and more, is paramount to a career in nursing. Today, high schoolers from all over South Florida have the opportunity to experience life as a registered nurse.

Each year, the Nursing Consortium of South Florida (the Consortium), a coalition of hospitals, nursing schools, health care agencies, and foundations, organizes the “A Day in the Life of a Nurse” program for high school students interested in pursuing a career as a registered nurse. The goal of the Consortium is to ensure that students see the important work that nurses do and are inspired to adequately prepare themselves for a career in nursing. Many students who participate in the event are area magnet school students where part of the curriculum focuses on careers in healthcare.

“This event provides high school students with an opportunity to shadow registered nurses and provide a glimpse into their future career,” said Claudia Distrito, President of the Nursing Consortium of South Florida. “Our goal is to encourage students to continue pursuing their career in nursing and show them the life saving and sustaining tasks the nurses provide to patients.”



Students participating in the one-day program take part in various activities including tours of key hospital departments conducted by “real nurses.” This experience allows students to spend time with the nurse and ask them individual questions about their profession, their challenges, and their nursing stories. Students also meet and hear from nurse educators, information systems nurses, nurse researchers, and nurse administrators. In addition to shadowing staff nurses and listening to various presentations, student experiences can include perform simple duties such as taking a person’s blood pressure, pulse and listening to their heart beat through a stethoscope, and scrubbing in and dressing out in surgical attire and touring a surgical room where they may handle high tech equipment. A total of thirty-four South Florida facilities are participating..

“It is very exciting to see so many students who are enthusiastic about their potential as a future nurse,” said Suzanne Luongo, Clinical Education Manager for the Memorial Healthcare System. “We are very fortunate to have an organization like the Nursing Consortium in our community to make this event a reality. I am looking forward to seeing many of these students back to our facility as employees in the coming years.”

Broward Hospital facilities participating in this year’s program include:

Broward Gen. Med. Ctr.  
1600 South Andrews Avenue  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

North Broward Hospital  
201 East Sample Road  
Deerfield Beach, FL 33064

Imperial Point  
6401 North Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

Coral Springs  
3000 Coral Hills Drive  
Coral Springs, FL 33065

Cleveland Clinic  
3100 Weston Road  
Weston, Florida 33331

Holy Cross Hospital  
4725 North Federal Highway  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33308



Memorial Regional  
3501 Johnson Street  
Hollywood, Florida 33021

Memorial Hospital Pembroke Pines  
7800 Sheridan Street  
Pembroke Pines Florida 33024

Memorial Hospital West  
703 North Flamingo Road  
Pembroke Pines, Florida 33028

University Hospital  
7201 North University Drive  
Tamarac, FL 33321

Memorial Hospital Miramar  
1901 Southwest 172nd Avenue  
Miramar Florida 33029

Westside Regional Med. Ctr.  
8201 W. Broward Blvd  
Plantation, FL 33324

### **About the Nursing Consortium of South Florida**

The Nursing Consortium of South Florida, founded in 1997, is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation whose strength lies in being the nexus for collaboration by the nurse leaders of its member organizations; South Florida's leading hospitals, nursing schools, staffing agencies, and foundations. The Consortium's mission is to identify and address factors causing a nursing shortage in South Florida. It alone unites nursing practice and education from across the region to address the area's need for culturally and technically competent nurses, by cultivating interest in nursing careers, by advocating for the interests of the profession, and by improving the public's understanding of nursing concerns and the perception of the nursing profession. For more information on the Nursing Consortium of South Florida please go to [www.nursingshortage.org](http://www.nursingshortage.org) or contact Ralph Egües, Executive Director, at 305-669-9644 or [regues@cruzfox.com](mailto:regues@cruzfox.com).

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