

GATEWAYS

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AFTER INJURY ARTIST PAINTS A NEW LIFE

A former patient survives spinal cord injury and reinvents himself as premiere "quad" artist, painting using only his wheelchair and mouth.

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FORENSIC NURSE RAISES AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH HER ART

A registered nurse with first-hand experience helping victims of domestic violence and sexual assault has created awareness of their plight through her paintings, which were unveiled at a recent exhibit honoring survivors of domestic violence.

A forensic nurse examiner with the Memorial Hermann System for the past eight years, Susan Spjut, R.N., B.S.N., C.A./C.P.-S.A.N.E., cares for those who have survived unspeakable acts of violence – sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse – and finds painting to be a therapeutic outlet.

It was caring for her patients and hearing their words or other narratives in the media that motivated Spjut to merge her passions: art and putting an end to violence against women and children. She has created a series of paintings and drawings themed around interpersonal violence, and her art eloquently conveys the fear and pain of those who have experienced suffering at the hands of another.

Her incredibly moving paintings and drawings were selected for a special exhibit in October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Three of the paintings sold and Spjut donated

half of the proceeds to the Houston Area Women's Center, which provides free counseling and follow-up care to many of our patients. Her art display has now been relocated to the Mexican Consulate to highlight the need to address these acts of violence in all cultures.

"My paintings and drawings tell the stories of those whose voices are silenced by the abuse of a stranger or a loved one," said Spjut. "For my work to have been chosen to represent the very people I serve is a great honor."

Spjut and the 13 other dedicated nurses comprise our Forensic Nursing

Services and are specially educated in treating victims of abuse – both physically and psychologically – while collaborating with community agencies and legal system to advocate for a victim-centered response. Our team is recognized internationally, and caregivers and representatives from humanitarian organizations from as far as Congo have come to our Campus to learn from them.

To view an online portfolio of Susan Spjut's artwork, visit www.susanspjut.com. ♦



A series of paintings and drawings created by one of our nurses - Susan Spjut, R.N., a forensic nurse examiner - were selected for a special exhibit during Domestic Violence Awareness Month and are now on display at the Mexican Consulate.

TIRR Receives President's Cup Award

At the Memorial Hermann Annual Meeting on Sept. 14, TIRR Memorial Hermann was recognized by Dan Wolterman, president and CEO of the Memorial Hermann System, with the 2010 President's Cup for Overall Outstanding Performance among the inpatient facilities across our System. The award was given in recognition of outstanding performance across all of our areas of strategic focus during FY2010: Growth, Operational Excellence, People, Physicians, Quality and Patient Satisfaction.

During the last fiscal year, TIRR not only met its performance targets, but surpassed them by as much as 100 percent in two categories – Quality and Operational Excellence.

"This achievement is the result of the hard work and dedication of each and every employee and physician at TIRR. It is a symbol of what is possible when we work together as a team," said Carl Josehart, CEO of TIRR Memorial Hermann.

In addition to the President's Cup, TIRR's Case Management and Social Work Team were honored at the Annual

Meeting as one of three System finalists for Breakthrough of the Year in the area of People.

"I am so proud to be part of such a dedicated and passionate team of professionals and want to thank everyone for his or her part in making TIRR the exceptional place that it is," said Josehart.

