



One Common Goal and One Unified Wish: A Cure for Acute Leukemia

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Relationship-based care (RBC) is a theoretical framework best described as “when nurses and their colleagues own their practice and consciously create environments of healing, their efforts visibly affect the practitioners, the practice, and the physical space” (Koloroutis, 2004, p. 24). The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute in Columbus, Ohio, adopted RBC in 2005 as the theoretic framework to guide nursing practice. As the RBC council of the 10E James Acute Leukemia Unit began working on primary nursing, they realized the need for a unit RBC project to inspire and unify staff to the newly developed unit vision.

Tara Shantz, BSN, RN, OCN®, made a suggestion inspired by a book that she had read, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* (Coerr, 1977), about a young girl who developed leukemia after radiation exposure in Hiroshima. The ancient Japanese legend of Senbazuru (1,000 cranes) states that the person who folds 1,000 origami cranes will be granted a wish. Sadako began folding cranes, but eventually became too weak to complete her goal. Her friends and family helped finish her dream by folding the rest of the cranes, which were buried with Sadako. The RBC council embraced the idea of renewing this inspiring legend on the 10E James unit for one common goal and one unified wish, a cure for acute leukemia.

This RBC project was particularly unique because it involved families and members of the community, in addition to patients and the care team. The project started with a bulletin board that was decorated with a plaque explaining the legend, and included envelopes of origami paper and instructions for folding paper cranes. The message touched so many



Photographs courtesy of the Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center.



From left to right, Kirsten Roblee, Tara Shantz, and Erin Ferlet show one of the many origami cranes in front of the display inspired by *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes* in the 10E James Acute Leukemia Unit at The Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute in Columbus, Ohio. The cranes are handmade by patients, family members, and staff.

that the paper supplies needed to be continuously restocked. As each completed crane was returned, it became very clear that each one was created by hands seeking hope or providing hope, proving that there still is beautiful life to be lived, even in the midst of battling against leukemia.

The unit quickly received the amount of cranes needed for the project, far before plans for a display had been finalized. Kirsten Roblee, BSN, RN, OCN®, chair of the RBC council, took the vision of the crane project to The James RBC council and later to the nurse manager, Kelly

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Key words: acute leukemia; paper crane; inspiration; relationship-based care

Digital Object Identifier: 10.1188/15.CJON.487-488