

## “WOW”!!!! I am Inspired!!!

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A few years ago, a colleague (White American) told me about a *dynamic* Haitian American Nursing Organization named HANA (Haitian American Nurses Association) and wondered why I was not a member. That same year, while attending a one-day conference in Dade County, she introduced me to Dr. Etienne. At the time, I was *busy* caring for my family, working and completing my studies, and also thought “Miami” was too far. Last fall, I bumped into Dr. Etienne at a nursing education conference. She informed me of the opportunity to go teach at a nursing school in Haiti. That was the hook! With a lighter schedule, I immediately contacted Odiane Medacier, Chair of Education Committee... Today, I am a **proud** member of HANA of Florida. My first and continuous impression of this 28 year-old organization is “WOW”!! Please allow me to explain what I mean by using the letters from the adjective **PROUD**.

**Professionalism**: Professionalism is a characteristic that is highly valued in the Nursing Profession. I am truly impressed by the level of professionalism that is exhibited by the Executive Board and the members of this organization. HANA’s efficiency and drive are reflected in the countless services (community health fairs, networking and media education, youth-focused interventions, emergency response teams, international medical missions, immunization drives and toy drives, continuing education for nurses, nursing scholarships, healthcare initiatives, and research) they offer to the Haitian communities in South Florida as well as those in Haiti and Dominican Republic. I present my **Kudos** to the Board and the membership for holding such high standards of professionalism.

**Respect**: HANA is respected locally, nationally and internationally. What earns HANA such accolades is their ethical and reliable comportsment. HANA always promptly responds to the needs of the community and gets the job done in a timely and effective manner. Additionally, in its continued effort to achieve its goal of “providing nurses with the opportunity to share and promote the ideas of interest to nursing” ([www.hanaofflorida.org/about.html](http://www.hanaofflorida.org/about.html)), in April 2012, HANA held its first leadership conference at Miami Dade College. They secured distinguished presenters from local, national and international healthcare institutions. The one word to describe the event is: EXCELLENT!!!

**Outstanding Dedication**: HANA’s Board and its membership tirelessly labor to remain true to its mission and vision. Its steadfast commitment in addressing the health issues of the Haitian communities in Florida and abroad is remarkable. HANA empowers individuals to become partners with their providers in their plan of care.

**A Call to Action**: Why should you as a nursing student, a nurse or sister nursing organization join forces with HANA. Because what you gain (professionalism, respect, outstanding dedication, and so much more...) from the organization far outweighs what you give. Last May, I had the privilege of going to the “Faculté de Sciences Infirmières de Léogane (FSIL) to teach and plan on going in May 2013. The experience was wonderful! I hope to start a HANA chapter in Palm Beach County in the near future. Dear colleagues, **Now** is the time to collaborate and/or partner with HANA. Instead of creating a stand-alone Haitian nursing organization, let us embrace our national motto: “L’ Union fait la Force = In Unity there is Strength.” So, I am

calling you to envision the greater impact (greater outcomes as the talents multiply) that we (Haitian Nurses) can and will have on our communities if we UNITE. Imagine that... As far as I am concerned, I am a Lifetime member of HANA!!! Would you please join me?

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