

Partly cloudy 91°
5 Day Forecast



WHICH DRUG IS CONSUMED BY 60% OF TEENS USING DRUGS?

METH

MARIJUANA

ECSTASY

COCAINE



News HCN Classifieds HCN Job Connect Today's Print Ads HCN My Capture Advertise With Us Contact

Tuesday 11 July, 2006

Home > News > Fort Bend/ Southwest Sun > Top News

NEWS SEARCH

go
[Advanced search](#)

Top News

Kidney patient turns advocate for better care

By: DIANE TEZENO, Staff Writer 07/03/2006

[Email to a friend](#) [Post a Comment](#) [Printer-friendly](#)



Leigh Anne Tanzberger

Leigh Anne Tanzberger was eight when she learned she had kidney disease. Twenty-eight years later she is an advocate for better education and treatment alternatives for kidney patients.

Born in Houston but raised in New Orleans, she served as president of the New Orleans Kidney Patients Association. Now a resident of New Territory, Tanzberger is an activist with the WeKAN Kidney Advocacy Network, a grassroots patient advocacy group that ensures chronic kidney disease patients receive quality care.

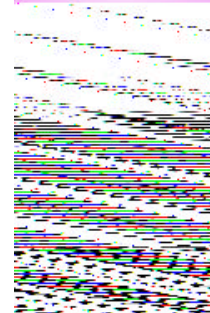
Tanzberger has also earned the distinction of being the only patient invited to serve on the board of the Texas Renal Coalition.

She traveled to Washington in June to rally for H.R.1298/S. 635, the Kidney Care Quality and Improvement Act of 2005. The bill's goals are to minimize financial barriers for home dialysis, educate patients in pre-endstage renal disease to delay onset of kidney failure, increase reimbursement to surgeons to encourage use of fistula implants versus grafts and provide improved training for dialysis technicians.

While in Washington, she and 18 other kidney patients affiliated with WeKAN spoke to congressmen and, with the help of lobbyist Sasha Burns, obtained nine co-sponsors for the bill, with promises of more support. A number of congressmen were more receptive this year because of a growing awareness of the impact that other conditions, like high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity, have on kidney disease.

Dealing with a chronic kidney condition has not been easy. She went into renal failure requiring a kidney transplant has been on three transplant lists, experienced significant scarring from catheters used in the treatment of her condition and battled and been cured of thyroid cancer.

In 1999, a surgical mishap involving her colon knocked her off the transplant list and forced her into hemodialysis treatments, in which an external machine functions as the kidney and cleans the blood. Prior to that, Tanzberger had been undergoing peritoneal dialysis, a daily in-home procedure that uses implants in a patient's abdominal cavity to filter and cleanse the blood, allowing patients to move about freely during treatment instead of being connected to a machine. Now, Tanzberger undergoes three hours of hemodialysis three days a week.



Today's Print Ads
[Click to Enlarge](#)

Counseling Services
Help... Hope... Healing...
 The Abiding Place
 Christian
 Counseling Center
www.theabidingplace.com
713.614.1238
 Bob Nix, Director

- HCN Top Stories
- About HCN
- Community Calendar
- Advertising Rates
- The Courier
- The Pasadena Citizen
- 1960 Sun Group
- Atascocita Observer
- Bellaire Examiner
- The Citizen Bay Area
- Cleveland Advocate
- Copperfield Sun
- Dayton News
- Deer Park Broadcaster
- Deer Park Progress
- Eastex Advocate
- East Montgomery Co Observer
- Fort Bend/ Southwest Sun
 - Top News
 - Community Photo Gallery
 - At a Glance
 - More News
 - Editorial/Opinions
 - School News
 - Business
 - Police/Courts
 - Letters
 - Shop Fort Bend
 - Sports
- Friendswood Journal
- Greater Houston Weekly
- HCN Photo Gallery
- Humble Observer
- Katy Sun
- Kingwood Observer
- Lake Houston Sentinel
- Memorial Examiner
- North Channel Sentinel
- Pearland Journal
- River Oaks Examiner
- Spring Observer
- The Potpourri

The Villager
Waller County News
Citizen
West University
Examiner
HCN Job Connect
Online Subscription

The procedure removes waste, salt and extra water to prevent them from building up in the body. Having grown up with the disease, she follows a strict diet to ensure her levels remain in healthy ranges, but said many diagnosed later in life are set in their ways and have more difficulty maintaining recommended dietary guidelines. That is why education is so important, as are managing such conditions as high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity, said Tanzberger. In addition to working for the passage of House and Senate bills, she and others are educating the public through a program called "Decrease the Increase" sponsored by the Texas Renal Coalition. Next to the phenomenal support she receives from her family, her greatest strength has been her inner resolve to manage her condition. "You just need to deal with what has been dealt. And you fight. You can live a normal life with kidney disease; you have to just change habits," said Tanzberger.

By the numbers:

9 -- Rank among leading causes of death in the United States.
14,500 -- New end-stage renal disease cases in 1979.
100,359 -- New end-stage renal disease cases in 2002.
42,000 -- Americans on dialysis and with kidney transplants in 1978.
431,000 -- Americans on dialysis and with kidney transplants in 2002.
20 million -- Estimated number of Americans (one in nine) with some stage of chronic kidney disease. Most are unaware of it.

Sources: Centers for Disease Control; WeKan Kidney Advocacy Network

Advertisement



MRT, a CEMEX company has immediate opening for:

Receptionist / Admin Assistant

Previous switchboard experience and MS Office skills desired. Compensation package includes health, dental, 401k, paid vacation and holidays

Great environment / beautiful office location in The Woodlands

Submit resume to: LM@ahai.com or 281-512-0877 fax: 800-777-0177

MINERAL RESOURCE TECHNOLOGIES
A CEMEX COMPANY

ENTERPRISE MARKETING ANALYST

(Delphi Database Management)

Benchmark Hospitality International, operator of resorts and conference centers throughout the U.S., has an immediate opening in the Home Office for a database marketing analyst. This position will be responsible for maintaining, evaluating and controlling the overall integrity of Benchmark's proprietary (Delphi) multi-property database consisting of 22 unique properties. Responsibilities include: Delphi data & catering software, database management and analysis as required, as well as CRM applications experience. Must be proficient in Word, MS Access, PowerPoint, MS Word and MS Excel. (Degree in Database Access and Global a plus.)

We offer a competitive salary and excellent benefit package.

Qualified individuals should submit resume and salary requirements online: careers.benchmarkmanagement.com www.benchmarkonline.com EOE/M/F/V

BENCHMARK HOSPITALITY INTERNATIONAL

©Houston Community Newspapers Online 2006

[Email to a friend](#) [Post a Comment](#) [Printer-friendly](#) [↑ Top](#)

Send us your community news, events, letters to the editor and other suggestions. Contact us at: HCNOnline.

Copyright © 1995 - 2006 Townnews.com All Rights Reserved.

[News](#) [HCN Classifieds](#) [HCN Job Connect](#) [Today's Print Ads](#) [HCN My Capture](#) [Advertise With Us](#) [Contact Us](#)