

## **“NURSE: A World of Care”**

### **Important Statistics**

- There are currently approximately 2.4 million Registered Nurses in the workforce in America today. (There are more than 2.9 million Registered Nurses in the workforce worldwide.)
- Nurses comprise the largest single component of hospital staff, are the primary providers of hospital patient care, and deliver most of the nation's long-term care.
- Every year 98,000 deaths occur because of medical errors. Studies show that nurses are responsible for catching nine of 10 medication errors made by physicians, pharmacies and others.
- A recent study found that 13% of newly licensed nurses had changed jobs after one year, and 37% reported that they felt ready to change jobs.
- For each additional patient a nurse cares for the mortality rate climbs 7%. And when a nurse goes from caring for four patients to caring for eight, the mortality rate soars 31%.
- A Harvard University study shows that lowering nursing staff levels is consistently associated with higher patient risks for a wide range of health complications, from pneumonia to upper gastrointestinal bleeding.
- Organizations with more registered nurses have up to a 12% reduction in health complications.