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eNewsletter Q1 2021

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FEATURE STORY

A Passion for Lifting Up Others

Entrepreneur, professional speaker, and poet Stephanie Bension shares how she developed a positive outlook on life, and inspires others to do the same.

Stephanie Bension comes alive when she's in front of an audience, when her listeners are charmed by her giant smile and bright personality, and hanging on her every word. For Stephanie, public speaking is not just a hobby — it's a calling. She wants to be known for bringing back the art of oration, following in the footsteps of verbal greats such as Martin Luther King Jr. and Barbara Jordan.

In 2017, when Stephanie was hired to speak at a medical conference in California about patient care, she confirmed that her passion could become a paid profession. Her speaking career continues to blossom, but it was a long and arduous journey to get to this point.

A double diagnosis: Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis In 2004, when Stephanie was in high school, she was diagnosed with a combination of Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. Her gastroenterologist became her medical guardian angel, and her devoted mother and sister were also big sources of support.

Despite her illnesses, she was able to attend the University of Texas at Austin. She made the Dean's list her first semester, but every semester after that was riddled with trouble. During her junior year, she became so sick that she had to rest in her car after classes in order to have the energy to drive back to her apartment and complete her assignments.

Stephanie understood the precarious position she was in, but she persevered. "I felt that if I didn't finish college then, I would never go back," she explained. "But eventually I got so ill that I had to go home to Houston." Near death, she was sent to a specialized hospice floor of St. Joseph Medical Center. Her doctor had tried everything and was at a loss, but he had the wisdom to seek the advice of a colleague who suggested Remicade® infusions.

"When my doctor gave me the choice to get an ostomy or die, I chose to live."

-Stephanie Bension





FEATURE STORY

A Passion for Lifting Up Others (continued)

Fortunately, the infusions worked, and Stephanie was released from the hospital. With a new lease on life, she returned to college and graduated with a degree in Radio-Television-Film. Then, she moved to Las Vegas to live with her father and stepmother, and pursue a career in marketing.

Emergency ileostomy surgery

Though she experienced some ups and downs with flare-ups, Stephanie was enjoying life in Las Vegas and doing well at work. In 2013, however, her diseases reared up again. At 24 years old, she found herself in the emergency room faced with the reality of receiving an ileostomy. "When they gave me the choice of getting an ostomy or dying, I chose to live," said Stephanie. "It was all so fast; at the last minute, they told me that a hotshot surgeon had flown in and was able to do my surgery."

Upon waking up from the successful procedure, Stephanie refused to look down at her stoma and pouching system until the day that her 12-year-old brother came to visit and asked to see it. "He said, 'Wow that's so cool!'" said Stephanie. "And that's when I finally looked at it and knew everything was going to be OK."

During her recovery, she was surrounded by her compassionate family—but she struggled to heal because her incision wouldn't close. One day, shortly after she came home from the hospital, the dam finally broke and she could not stop crying. Her dad held her, and explained that her mind was finally catching up with her body.

"I was grieving; I came to a point of acceptance that preostomy Stephanie was gone and never coming back," she explained. "That simple realization was heavy, but knowing that helped me push through the rest of my recovery and the rest of my life."

Sharing her story with others

Up to that point, only her loving family knew her story, but she knew she had to share it with others. The next hurdle was finally posting what she had gone through on social media. "Some people had known me, but never knew about everything I was going through," said Stephanie. "When they found out, they were absolutely amazed."

Going public was a big step, and Stephanie received a swell of support. As with most chronic illnesses, however, the journey wasn't over. At a checkup back in Houston in 2016, she learned that she had disease in her rectum that had to be removed. Doctors had saved her rectum in the hopes that one day her ostomy could be reversed, but now that hope was gone. "They removed my rectum and sealed my anus," recalled Stephanie. "I woke up with what I call Barbie butt."

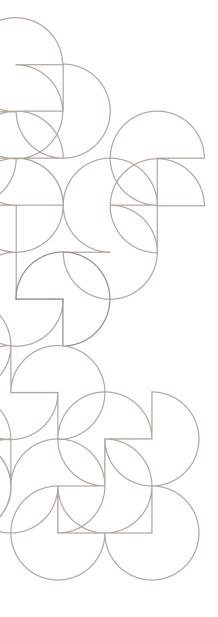
After that surgery, Stephanie felt new levels of sadness. As a male friend sat with her during recovery, she shared her worry about not finding someone to love her. "He told me, 'If anybody can't see past your ostomy, then they're missing out on a real blessing,'" she said. "Hearing that from a man really helped me along, and now I'm dating!"

Stephanie's current love interest wanted to know everything about her ostomy. He also promised her she'd never have to do it alone, and that life is meant to be shared. "That pre-ostomy girl is gone; he never got to meet her, but he still wants me," she said. "And even if I don't end up with him, he has opened me up to knowing that there will be someone who understands like he does."

(continued on the next page)

FEATURE STORY

A Passion for Lifting Up Others (continued)



Finding a community...and a new career

That understanding has proved vital to her outlook on life, and her advice to ostomates is to find your community. "It will help get you through all that darkness," said Stephanie. "Even if it doesn't include others with an ostomy at first, just being insulated by friends and family will bring you joy, and that joy will give you enough strength to survive."

Stephanie has been a professional speaker since 2017, winning over audiences with her energetic presence and making a connection on every stage. Her topics include overcoming adversity, living with a chronic illness, having an ostomy, struggles unique to women, and more. She loves talking to all kinds of audiences – from youth to the elderly, and professional to personal.

Even though the isolation and limitations of COVID-19 have brought back feelings of helplessness she experienced in the hospital, Stephanie keeps her eyes on the future. She plans to continue speaking professionally and advocating for people with ostomies. She is also determined to live a full life that could be used as an example to inspire others. "I want to have a beautiful family, and show as much love as I have been given to as many people as possible," she said.

When asked if she has any other future plans, Stephanie borrowed the sage words of her father, "Keep Livin'!"



Stephanie knows how to command a crowd with her engaging and inspiring speeches.



Stephanie Bension is a professional speaker who charms diverse audiences—from her local community to international assemblies. She holds a degree in Radio-Television-Film from The University of Texas at Austin, which has allowed her to have unique experiences in several professional fields. Stephanie credits her successes to God and a close circle of friends and family. You can find her on social media **@missbension** and at **www.stephaniebension.com**

Financial Disclosure: Stephanie Bension received compensation from Hollister Incorporated for her contribution to this article.







ASK THE EXPERT

How a Convex Skin Barrier May Help You Get the Right Fit

Learn how convex skin barriers work and what benefits they offer

By Wil Walker, MBA, BSN, RN, WOC Nurse



Living with an ostomy doesn't mean you have to live with stoma fluid leakage or skin irritation. Your skin barrier fit plays a large role in your skin health experience. The good news is that there are different product options that take your particular stoma and the skin around it into consideration.

Flat versus convex skin barriers

Ostomy skin barriers are either flat or convex. These descriptions refer to how the barrier is constructed. A convex skin barrier curves outward towards the skin around your stoma (i.e., your peristomal skin) to increase the depth of the barrier. A flat skin barrier, on the other hand, has a level or even surface area that comes in contact with the peristomal skin.

When a convex skin barrier may improve fit

The characteristics of your stoma and peristomal skin can help you determine whether to use a flat or convex skin barrier.

A flat skin barrier may work best if your stoma sticks out above the level of your skin and has an opening right in the middle, and if your peristomal skin is flat and free of creases and folds.

(continued on the next page)

ASK THE EXPERT

How a Convex Skin Barrier May Help You Get the Right Fit

(continued)

A convex skin barrier may be the best choice if your stoma is not above the level of your skin, if it protrudes less than an inch, and/or if you have a dip or indented areas around your stoma. The outward curving of the convex skin barrier places pressure on your peristomal skin to help your stoma protrude, or to help open or flatten skin folds – which helps **prevent leakage**. If you're having trouble keeping your pouch on, a convex skin barrier may give you a more secure seal around your stoma and a longer wear-time.

Choosing a pre-sized or cut-to-fit convex skin barrier

If you decide to use a convex skin barrier, you'll need to choose either a pre-sized or a cut-to-fit barrier. Both flat and convex skin barriers offer these two options.

If your stoma is round and its size is no longer changing, you may want to **choose** a **convex skin barrier** that has an opening already cut to the proper size. You'll usually see the term "pre-sized" used to describe this type of skin barrier.

If your stoma is oval, irregular in shape, or still changing, you may need to cut your convex skin barrier to the correct size. You'll see the term "cut-to-fit" used to describe this type of skin barrier.

Ostomy skin barriers are available with **many different options**. Be sure to work with your ostomy care nurse to determine if convexity is right for you.

If considering a soft convex skin barrier, try the new Hollister Two-Piece Soft Convex CeraPlus™ skin barrier with Remois Technology* designed to help prevent leakage and maintain healthy skin right from the start.

Need help finding an ostomy care nurse? Want to find out more about your ostomy skin barrier options? Contact Hollister Secure Start services at **1.888.808.7456**.



*Remois is a trademark of Alcare Co., Ltd.







Please share this expert information with anyone you know who may benefit from trying convexity.

View or print the full PDF care tip: **Using Convexity**

DOWNLOAD



Flat skin barrier



Convex skin barrier





Wil has been employed with Hollister for 13 years and is currently a Clinical Resource Manager for the US Ostomy business. He previously held roles in Global Clinical Education supporting the US and Latin America and worked as a Product Manager for Hollister's Critical Care business. Wil is responsible for clinical support, presenting educational content, developing key opinion leaders and he leads the Hollister US Ostomy Clinical Advisory Board. Wil completed his WOC Nurse training at the Cleveland Clinic. He is a native of the New Orleans area and currently resides in the Chicago suburbs.

How to Use Barrier Rings

Cut, mold, stretch or shape a barrier ring to fit your needs

No two people or stomas are alike, so if you want to fill in a gap between the stoma and the skin barrier opening on your pouch...then use flat barrier rings to create a custom fit, help protect your skin, and fill in uneven skin areas.

Easy to apply and remove



Flat barrier rings can be stretched to fit the stoma size. They can be cut, stacked or rolled to better customize and secure the fit of your skin barrier.

Is there any exposed skin in between your skin barrier opening and the stoma itself? Simply stretch and shape the barrier ring to your exact stoma size to cover the gaps before placing the skin barrier on top.



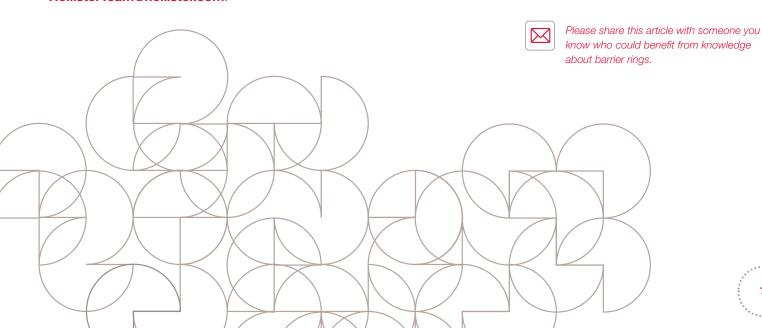
Do you tend to have leakage in the same areas each time toward a crease in your skin or any uneven contours? Maybe your belly button fits under your skin barrier? Assess the skin around your stoma when in an upright position to search for these uneven areas.



You can cut or pull apart a piece (or pieces) of the barrier ring and mold it into the uneven skin to create a flatter surface to help prevent stoma drainage from getting under the skin barrier.

As an alternative to paste, barrier rings are alcohol-free and contain adhesive properties. Try **Adapt CeraRing™** barrier rings, infused with ceramide and designed to help prevent leakage, and support healthy skin around the stoma.

For more product guidance or options, call your Secure Start services team at **1.888.808.7456** or email **HollisterTeam@hollister.com**.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Making a Difference Every Day

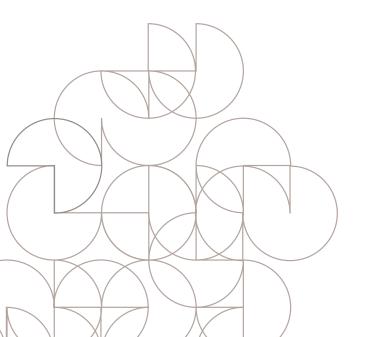
Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA sends free ostomy supplies and educational resources to those in need around the globe.

Many people living with ostomies in developing countries are unable to afford the ostomy supplies that they need. They are forced to utilize plastic bags, metal cans, rubber gloves, or rags and towels to manage their ostomies. Consequently, their quality of life is poor and skin care is a major issue. In addition, their family members, friends, and communities often reject them. Because of these challenges, they may be unable to attend school or hold a job. They may lose all hope and struggle to survive.

Fortunately, Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA (FOW-USA) listens to these cries for help. FOW-USA is a volunteer-run, non-profit organization that provides free ostomy supplies and educational resources to those in need around the globe. During the 2018-2019 fiscal year, FOW-USA made 144 shipments to 97 countries – a total of nearly 14 tons of supplies, valued at over \$1.3 million.

FOW-USA doesn't see a shipment as a pallet of supplies, but rather as an infant who now has a pediatric ostomy pouch, a young man who can finally work without worrying about odor, or a grateful mother who can send her child to school with the proper ostomy products.

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FOW-USA sent needed ostomy supplies to a mother in Nicaragua who said:

"This is my son, Matias Daniel, born on June 3, 2017. He suffers from Hirschsprung's disease, and received a colostomy on his second day of birth. He has had six surgeries, three of which were due to complications. In 2019, after a colostomy closure procedure, he had a perforation in his colon, so he currently has an ileostomy."



One of the hospitals that receives supplies is Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi

COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Making a Difference Every Day

(continued)

How to donate ostomy supplies

Interested in helping FOW-USA fulfill its mission? If you receive ostomy product samples that you don't want, or if you change the type of ostomy pouch you use and no longer have a need for the rest of your supplies, do not throw them away. Ship them to FOW-USA, 4018 Bishop Lane, Louisville, KY 40218-4539.

If you have a small amount to ship, you can put the supplies in a zipped plastic bag and mail them in a flat-rate postal box. If you have large quantities of skin barriers and pouches, you can remove them from their boxes, put them in zipped plastic bags, place the bags in a carton, and send the carton by UPS, which gives a discount to AAA

and AARP members. Be sure to include your name and mailing address in your shipment. FOW-USA will send you a receipt, which you can use for tax purposes.

If you would like more information about the important work of FOW-USA, or want to sign up for their newsletter, visit **www.fowusa.org**.

Gita, Patan Academy of Health Science, Patan Hospital, Kathmandu, Nepal, recently received a shipment from FOW



FOW-USA also sent supplies to Abeer in Romania, who arranges for them to go to his mother, Amal, (pictured on the left), in Iraq, and said:

"Mama received the supplies. She's very happy. Through your help her problem is solved. Thank you from all our heart. My mother sends to you her warm greetings!"







Know someone who may benefit from the many valuable resources that FOW-USA provides? Please share this article with them.



Words of Encouragement from Ostomates Like You

Dive into our new Ostomate Voices booklet for inspiration and practical advice

If you are preparing for ostomy surgery or acclimating to the new you, you may have a lot of questions. Do I have to give up the activities I enjoy? Will I ever feel like myself again? Am I still lovable? If you've had these same questions, this booklet shares inspiration and practical advice on living with an ostomy from people who are doing it.

It all started when we were celebrating National Ostomy Awareness Day 2020. We asked the ostomy community to complete the sentence: "My ostomy makes it possible for me to say...". We turned their answers into a series of life-affirming social cards (a few examples pictured on the right) and compiled them, along with other helpful resources, into a blueprint for living life to the fullest with an ostomy.

"My fear disappeared as I learned to care for my new self."

Anonymous

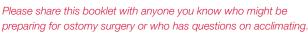
The way we look at it, the only people who truly understand your journey are those who traveled the path ahead of you, and paved the way.

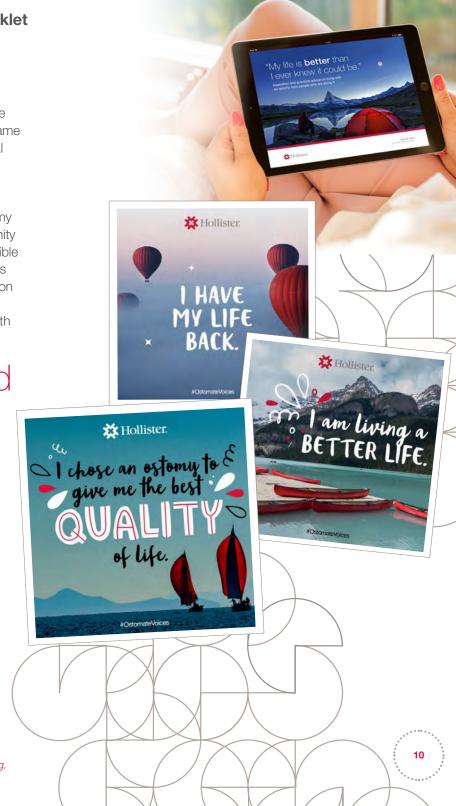
DOWNLOAD BOOKLET











WHAT'S SO FUNNY



Support is Crucial

Brenda Elsagher talks about the many ways that people with ostomies can find support and connection.

Support. I'm not talking about my bra, although it could win an Oscar® for a supporting role! I'm talking about the kind of encouragement you get from knowing another person with an ostomy.

I freaked out when I was 39 and had to have a colostomy. I wanted a point of reference and needed to talk to someone who had a stoma. I wanted to know what to expect; I wanted to prepare my body and mind for the changes coming my way. There was no internet and no social media. I didn't even know there was any other kind of ostomy besides a colostomy.

My Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurse (WOCN) was a great source of comfort. She calmly explained, without horror, that excrement (OK, I think she actually said "stool" – and I wouldn't have used either of those words) would be coming out of my abdomen and into a bag that would somehow adhere to my body.

She made it sound like it would become so natural, as if I was adding a quart of milk to my shopping list. No big deal. You'll get this in no time at all. And she said all of this with a confident smile - a genuine one, not a fake one like when people are trying to help you through something awful. I felt she meant it! So, I let myself believe her. During one of my subsequent visits to her office, I saw a newsletter that listed a meeting time for people living with ostomies. I went to the meeting, and realized that this was my tribe. For many attendees, these gatherings were the only ostomy support they had, other than their loved ones who tried to understand but could never quite get it. Besides, here were people I could eat a meal with while talking about changing ostomy pouches. You can't do that with every crowd! I met life-long friends at those meetings, and that was an unexpected perk.

Then I heard of a conference, the **United Ostomy**Associations of America (UOAA) national conference, where people came from all over the USA, and some from Canada and other countries too. It featured classes, social events, great speakers, and time to get to know more people with ostomies. A young man I talked to recently told me that he met someone at the 2009 conference who changed his life and made all the difference. If we only knew the power of a quiet conversation and how its impact can be phenomenal. We can be a resource for one another. That's why I suggest regular telephone check-ins or video calls with **UOAA Affiliated Support Groups** (ASGs), because both can play a crucial role in helping someone feel connected.

"If we only knew the power of a quiet conversation . . . we can be a resource for one another."

- Brenda Elsagher

I also found information galore and updates on the latest innovative technology for people with ostomies in *The Phoenix* magazine (the official publication of the UOAA), which still exists today. Not long after, I got America Online (AOL) and felt like I was on the forefront of technology. I had a computer, and now the internet. Imagine horns blasting – my world opened up and the exchange of information worldwide was awesome. Even more ways to

(continued on the next page)



WHAT'S SO FUNNY?

Support is Crucial

(continued)

communicate! A woman in Colorado who read my book, "If the Battle is Over, Why am I Still In Uniform," emailed me, decided to get a colonoscopy, and was spared from cancer. That is a satisfying feeling, to know you gave up a year of your life to write a book and it saved another.

I began to speak across the USA. Who would have thought that 25 years later I am still talking about bowels and butts, or dare I say the lack of them in some cases? The people I have met, the conversations I have had, the opportunities that have come my way - all because I chose to meet with a small group of people. That experience led to an abundance of support, not only for me but for others I know with ostomies or continent diversions, because of all that we shared. Some shared their misery, some shared their success, and some listened, learned, and began to feel that they could deal with their situations. Finding the group was life enhancing, and even life-saving in many cases. I kept coming to help others, but have been helped in return many times over. A phrase that I often heard at the meetings was, "Someone reached out to me in the hospital, and I want to do the same."

In my new role as the UOAA Director of ASG Affairs, I have come full circle as a volunteer. I meet so many people across the USA that are actively reaching out to others, and helping them on their paths to recovery of mind, body, and spirit. I am their cheerleader. Sometimes I can offer a suggestion or teach them how to use Zoom to stay connected. I have always known that the UOAA had our backs but I have now found so many **more resources on their website** that I never knew existed. There are over 300 ostomy support groups in the USA for people with ostomies and continent diversions. And for people who don't like to go to group meetings, there is an individual membership, too, that gives them full access to an abundance of resources.



There is no right way or wrong way to have an ostomy. You don't have to shout it out to the world, but there also is no reason to be ashamed about it. I honor your privacy, and thank you for honoring my desire to be public. Both are good. We are alive and grateful!

Brenda Elsagher is an author, international speaker, and comedian, and also volunteers with the UOAA. She has been living well with an ostomy for 25 years. Find out more about Brenda at **livingandlaughing.com**, and follow her on Facebook @BrendaElsagher.

Financial Disclosure: Brenda Elsagher received compensation from Hollister Incorporated for her contribution to this article.







Hollister Partners with Crohn's & Colitis Foundation to Share Common Goals

Collaboration will focus on improving the lives of IBD patients through education and support

Hollister Incorporated is proud to announce a three-year partnership with the renowned Crohn's & Colitis Foundation, the leading non-profit organization dedicated to finding the cures for IBD and improving the quality of life for patients. Since its founding in 1967, the Foundation has invested more than \$400 million in research to speed the development of cures for IBD patients. It also provides education and support for millions of IBD patients and their families through a variety of channels at a national and local level.

With this in mind, we recognized the similarities in the Mission at Hollister – to make life more rewarding and dignified for people who use our products and services. Hollister also shares principles with the Foundation that are core to everything the company does and pursues.

"This is an exciting partnership because we are aligned with very similar goals," said Tom Kennett, Senior Manager of US Ostomy Marketing at Hollister Incorporated. "We are appreciative of the opportunity to collaborate with the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation to improve the lives of IBD patients through education and support – a partnership worth building into the future."

"We are thrilled to announce this partnership," said Nicholas Roman, National Business Development Manager at the Crohn's & Colitis Foundation. "Both of our organizations aim to positively change the lives of patients who are affected by IBD by providing the information and resources necessary to effectively manage their disease and live well."

Ostomy surgery is a life-saving procedure that may be necessary due to IBD such as Crohn's disease and ulcerative colitis. With this partnership with the Foundation, we hope to bring more awareness to the IBD community on ostomy surgery and break stigmas that may be preventing them from living their lives to the fullest. To reinforce this, we intend to collaborate on creating unique and valuable educational resources and opportunities. Stay tuned for updates and more ways you can get involved!

"Both of our organizations aim to positively change the lives of patients who are affected by IBD..."

- Nicholas Roman, Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

To learn more about the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, visit **www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org**.

To learn more about Hollister Incorporated, visit **www.hollister.com**.

EVENT UPDATES

Spring Event Updates

Due to COVID-19 check websites for updates

Colon Cancer Coalition

The **2021 National Tour de Tush** scheduled for May will see bike riders across the country set and meet their mileage goals while spreading awareness and raising funds to fight colon cancer. May is also when several in-person and/or virtual **Get Your Rear in Gear Run/Walk** events are scheduled in various locations. Check the status of these fundraisers at **coloncancercoalition.org**.

Colorectal Cancer Alliance

"When we know better, we do better. But if we don't know, then we can't do." Getting screened is the number one way to prevent colorectal cancer, and there are multiple safe options. Take the pledge to get screened: pledge.getscreened.org. Need help with a diagnosis? Visit ccalliance.org or call the toll-free Helpline at 877.422.2030 to speak with a navigator.

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

Camp Oasis

The Crohn's & Colitis Foundation is actively re-imagining the virtual camp experience beyond last year's virtual **Camp Oasis** efforts, to bring an even more dynamic, interactive, and fun virtual camp experience to the homes of campers!

Registration for the 2021 virtual camp program is expected to launch in early April.

Take Steps

2021 will be a unique year with a combination of looks for Take Steps events. These are the three ways to come together in 2021: Hybrid (Drive-In/Drive-thru/Scaled back in-person), Virtual, and In-person (To be determined as things progress in the next few months). You can join in as a walker, team member, or supporter and connect with patients, families, healthcare providers and organizations while fundraising for cures. For a full schedule, please refer to the **Take Steps** website.

Team Challenge

Join us as we hit the streets of New Orleans for the Big Easy Running Festival! Choose from a half marathon or 5K and let the good times roll as you race for cures. For more information, please head to the **Team Challenge** website.

Girls With Guts

Love Your Guts Mail Gals continue to send love notes without reciprocation to fellow Girls With Guts who need a bit of extra love. If you wish to nominate someone (including yourself) to receive some words of encouragement, there is a form to fill out at **girlswithguts.org**.

Youth Rally

After quickly and successfully transitioning to virtual last year, the **2021 Youth Rally** will be held again virtually, from July 14-17. Plans have already begun to make 2021's Virtual Youth Rally even better! This one-of-a-kind camp experience for kids and teens with bowel and bladder conditions promotes independence, self-esteem, learning, developing friendships, and best of all, FUN! Interested in becoming or returning as a camp counselor or member of the camp medical team? Visit **youthrally.org** for information and to apply today!



Kids from all around the country connected together at Youth Rally 2020



Show your support for these organizations by sharing their Event Updates with someone you know living with IBD or an ostomy.

You Respond. We Listen.

Thank you to those who took part in our survey

In our previous issue, we shared a link to a quick survey to learn more about what you look forward to most about our eNewsletters. Thank you to everyone who took time to participate and let us know your likes and what you would be interested in reading more about in future issues.

Here are some of the findings after tabulating the survey responses:

- Most of you who answered believe that educational articles and product videos would best support them given the experiences they have encountered during the pandemic.
- Of those who responded, the majority are "very interested" or "interested" in ostomy product information, followed by education from nurses or medical experts, and tips from ostomy advocates.
- Almost 89% of people who took the survey believe that the eNewsletter makes them feel more connected to other people living with ostomies.

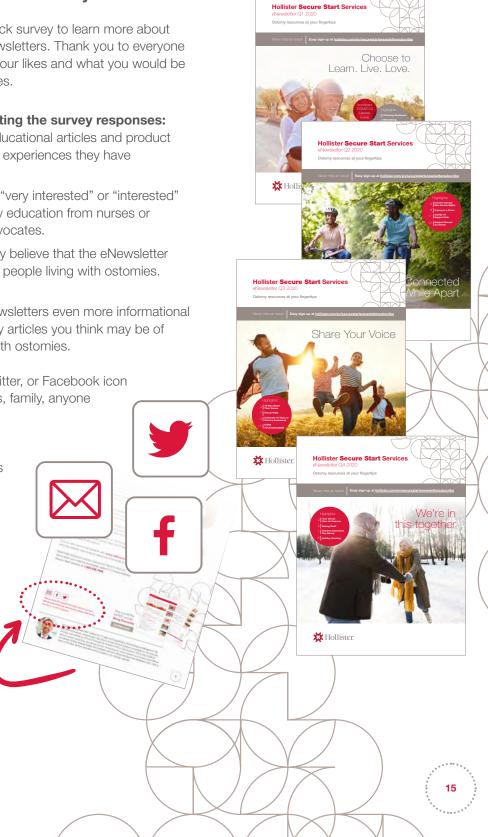
We will use your feedback to make future eNewsletters even more informational and enjoyable. We encourage you to share any articles you think may be of interest with others you know who are living with ostomies.

It's easy to share! Just click on the email, Twitter, or Facebook icon at the end of an article and share it with friends, family, anyone living with an ostomy, and their caregivers.

We've even prepared an "opening sentence" for your email that notes you want to share this article of interest with the person you are sending it to. Just type in their email address and send it! The article is already attached.

Same with sharing on Facebook or Twitter. A brief description is pre-populated along with relevant hashtags.

Give it a try this issue. Someone may be glad you did.



SHARE YOUR STORY

Share Your Story

Your life's story may be one that is meant to be shared

Your life experience, what you have gone through, what you have overcome since your diagnosis and ostomy surgery is a story that could be worth telling in hopes of inspiring others to live their lives to the fullest. This is an opportunity for you to become a voice that needs to be heard throughout the ostomy community.

Did Stephanie Bension's story of overcoming several adversities in her life to become a noted speaker and poet inspire you to aim for your life's goals?

Was Brenda Elsagher's life's journey following ostomy surgery similar to an experience you would enjoy sharing with others?

We would like to know where your life's journey has taken you, where you are now headed, and what it took to get you to where you are today. Your story may be one worth sharing in a future eNewsletter with others living with an ostomy.



Click and submit your story today!



Please share this article with anyone you know whose life's journey may be an interesting and inspiring story to tell.

HELPFUL TIPS



Is It Time to Place an Order for Your Ostomy Supplies?

Let the Hollister Secure Start services team help you locate a national supplier that is in-network with your insurance(s) to receive your Hollister products. Over the years, Hollister has built relationships with several mail-order suppliers across the country and we can assist in helping find the right company for you. These suppliers will work with your insurance companies and doctors to ensure you receive the products you need in a timely manner. You can find a supplier at any point in your journey, regardless of the brand of product you use.

Please call us at **1.888.808.7456** to speak with a dedicated Consumer Service Advisor today. Our office is open from Monday through Friday 8 AM – 5 PM CT.



Please share this helpful tip from Secure Start services with your caregiver and anyone you know who is living with an ostomy.

Hollister Secure Start Services

eNewsletter

Resources

Hollister Secure Start Services

1.888.808.7456

www.securestartservices.com

Hollister Facebook

Hollister Instagram

United Ostomy Associations of America, Inc. (UOAA)

1.800.826.0826 info@uoaa.org www.ostomy.org

Crohn's & Colitis Foundation

1.800.932.2423

www.crohnscolitisfoundation.org

Colon Cancer Coalition (CCC)

1.952.378.1237

www.coloncancercoalition.org

Colorectal Cancer Alliance (CCA)

1.877.422.2030 www.ccalliance.org

Bladder Cancer Advocacy Network (BCAN)

1.888.901.2226

www.bcan.org

Friends of Ostomates Worldwide-USA

www.fowusa.org

Youth Rally

www.youthrally.org

Run For Resilience

www.ostomy5k.org

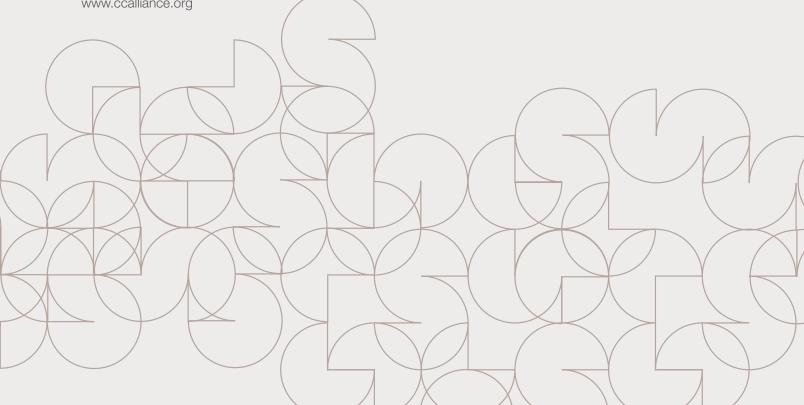
Shadow Buddies Foundation

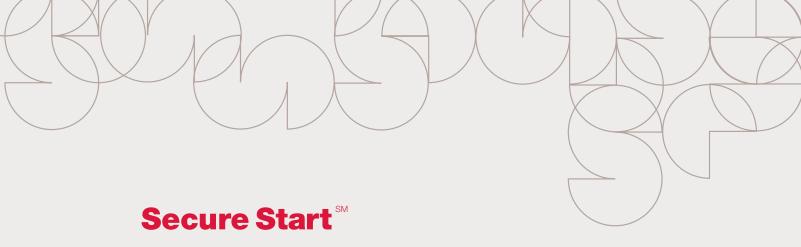
www.shadowbuddies.org

Girls With Guts

www.girlswithguts.org

Click here to download past issues of the Hollister Secure Start services eNewsletter.





It's Personal

We are proud to offer dedicated support for each and every ostomy and continence care patient along the continuum of care. Hollister Secure Start services provide a lifetime of personalized support.



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