

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OHIO NETWORK FOR THE CHEMICALLY INJURED

for further information contact: Toni Temple (440) 845-1888



"HEALTHIER HOSPITALS" ENABLES HEALTH CARE CENTERS

TO MEET NEEDS OF THE CHEMICALLY DISABLED

Cleveland, Ohio.....recently published Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS) Disability Access Manual, Healthier Hospitals was produced primarily to educate hospital administration, staff and medical personnel on proper care and consideration for the special needs of MCS patients.

The 28-page manual is the direct result of the combined efforts of author, Toni Temple--an MCS victim--and two local hospitals. It is expected that it will improve access issues for those hospital patients who suffer from this widespread disability. Those with MCS may have sensitivities to common chemicals and can experience problems ranging from mild discomfort to severe and life threatening reactions.

"This book was written," said author Toni, "because the needs of MCS patients were not being met simply because hospitals did not know what those needs were or how to accommodate them. This manual simplifies what can be done, how to make it work and creates good will and benefits for both the patient and the medical facility at very little or no cost. I feel this educational tool will help prevent any further misunderstanding of chemical sensitivity disability and provide better health care for those with MCS."

(more)

According to Toni Metro Health Care Center was the first medical facility in northeast Ohio to acknowledge there are solutions to the access difficulties of those with MCS. She related how a special patient representative was assigned to work with her to "pave" the way through environmental obstacles. Now, as a patient of Southwest General Health Center for the past five years, Toni applauds the efforts of the hospital staff. In her acknowledgements for the book, she says: "the many hospital employees at Southwest General Health Center in Middleburg Hts., OH helped make the suggestions in this book 'work' because of their spirit of cooperation, open-mindedness and positive attitudes."

The book will be part of a "Healthier Hospitals on the Horizon Campaign." Complimentary copies are being distributed to all greater Cleveland area hospitals and sent to MCS support groups throughout the United States. Those with MCS and other health problems--such as asthma, lupus, learning disabilities, depression, attention deficit disorder, rheumatoid arthritis, chronic fatigue syndrome, cancer, and other disorders--may obtain copies of the manual from the Ohio Network for the Chemically Injured, P.O. Box 29290, Parma OH 44129, for a donation of \$8.50 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.

Toni Temple will present copies of the manual to the hospital administration and staff. She will also express her deep personal appreciation to those dedicated medical specialists and other hospital personnel who went out of their way to assist her and her special disability needs.

A press conference is being planned for September 24th. Contact Toni Temple at (440) 845-1888 for details and further information. Representatives of the media are invited to attend. However, because of Toni's disability, as well as others who may participate, it is recommended that those who attend refrain from using any scented products.

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