

## **Bio: LeAnn Thieman, Nurse, Author, Hall of Fame Speaker**

**Like you, nurse recruitment and retention expert LeAnn Thieman** understands the challenges facing healthcare givers today.

- **Do you recruit them** by offering sign-on bonuses?
- **Do you retain them** by giving them donuts or days off?
- **Do you recognize them** once a year during Nurses or Hospital Weeks?
- **Or is there a *smarter way*** so they take *better care* of themselves– *and even better care of your patients every day?*

**With over three decades of in-the-trenches nursing experience** and 18 years helping hospitals and organizations recruit and retain caregivers, LeAnn has a different, dynamic, yet simple approach.

**Unlike other programs**, LeAnn's are based on the proven principle that *caring for the caregiver* is the answer. One who is strong of mind, body and spirit will give better patient care, resulting in better patient outcomes, which will increase patient satisfaction scores and reimbursements.

**Referred to as “the best retention tool we’ve ever had,”** LeAnn fuses true stories and life balance strategies to impact audiences in an intense and intimate way. They march out renewed, reinvigorated, and recommitted to improving their professional and personal lives and serving on a deeper level of excellence. LeAnn works with the best forward thinking hospitals committed to caring for their staff as the key strategy in preparing for the looming nursing shortage.

**LeAnn's story of being “accidentally” caught up in the Vietnam Orphan Airlift** in 1975 engages and inspires people. “I’ve never nearly cried or laughed so hard!” they proclaim as they learn her tools for coping in the war zones of their everyday lives. An ordinary person, she struggled through extraordinary circumstances and found the courage to succeed during her daring adventure of helping to rescue 300 babies as Saigon was falling to the Communists. LeAnn's penetrating conversations and expertise have been featured around the globe in on BBC, NPR, PBS, FOX News, *Newsweek Magazine's Voices of the Century* issue, and countless radio and TV programs. She writes regular columns for *NurseTogether.com*, *Caregiving in America*, and *The Best of Aging* magazines.

**LeAnn's 15 books have inspired, motivated, and changed the lives** of millions of readers. It began with *This Must Be My Brother*, her incredible Operation Babylift story. After it was featured in *Chicken Soup for the Mother's Soul*, LeAnn became one of Chicken Soup's most prolific writers.

**Her devotion to thirty years of nursing made her the ideal co-author of *Chicken Soup for the Nurse's Soul***, which hit the *New York Times* Bestseller list! She went on to author *Chicken Soup for the Nurse's Soul, Second Dose; Chicken Soup for the Christian Woman's Soul; Chicken Soup for the Caregiver's Soul; Chicken Soup for the Father and Daughter Soul; Chicken Soup for the Grandma's Soul; Chicken Soup for the Mother and Son Soul; Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2, Chicken Soup for the Adopted Soul, Chicken Soup for the Soul, Living Catholic Faith; Chicken Soup for the Soul, A Book of Miracles* and *Chicken Soup for the Soul, Answered Prayers*.

**Her latest, *SelfCare for HealthCare, Your Guide to Physical, Mental and Spiritual Health*** is a dynamic component of her transformational SelfCare for HealthCare initiative.

**LeAnn is among fewer than ten percent of expert speakers worldwide** to have earned the Certified Speaking Professional designation and in August, 2008 she was inducted into the National Speakers Association's Speaker Hall of Fame, further motivating people to say, "I'm going to live my life differently after hearing you today."