

## **To A Transplant Nurse:**

**I am writing this letter to thank all transplant nurses. I am the wife of a heart double lung transplant recipient. The experiences I had with transplant nurses was very positive and inspiring.**

**Needless to say my husband was a very sick man before his transplant. He was on oxygen 24/7 and had difficulty doing many of the things that were expected of a 45 year old father/husband. But even before his transplant, nurses were always helping him keep his spirits up by telling him how great things would be post transplant.**

**Five years ago, my husband received his new heart and lungs. It was then we saw the true dedication of transplant nurses. During his first few days in the ICU, he had a particularly dedicated nurse. She not only took care of all the post transplant medical issues, but she would bathe him, comb his hair, and talk to him on a personal level to keep his spirits up. I remember when my children saw their father for the first time after transplant, it was very scary for them. To see their father unconscious and with tubes coming out of him in all directions and monitors beeping was very unnerving. She talked to them and told them things would be all right and before long their dad would be up and about. When my husband was well enough to be moved out of the ICU, he again had a wonderful nurse. She not only took care of his medical needs, but she made sure that he had special meals, access to computers, movies, books, whatever he needed to help him in his recovery. I am embarrassed to say that I do not remember these nurse's names, but I will never forget their kindness to my husband and our family. Even today when my husband goes for his check ups, the people he most talks about and says help him the most are the nurses. You are on the front lines and help more than anyone may say to you.**

**Let me tell you some of the things that you have enabled our family to do in the 5 years since my husband's transplant. He has again become the husband/father we once knew. We have been able to celebrate the graduations of all of our children from high school, 2 of them from college, and the wedding of our oldest son. We have been able to travel to Las Vegas, visit the Grand Canyon, celebrate our 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in Maine and Cape Cod, and this last spring go to New Orleans. My husband was able to participate for the first time in the Transplant Olympics and ran the 5K, biked a hilly course in Pittsburgh, and participate in badminton. We look forward to taking the whole family to Ireland next summer.**

**My daughter was also truly inspired by the care she saw given to her father during his transplant experience. She is now studying to become a physician assistant and cites the care she saw given to her father as one of the factors that led her to this decision.**

**It is through your efforts and dedication, that our family is once again whole. Please know that we appreciate everything you do. We may not remember your names, but we will always remember your efforts and the second chance you gave our family. Keep up the great work.**