

To A Transplant Nurse:

Hello,

How are you? I hope this letter finds you well and happy. I want to express how important your care and concern was during my two Organ Transplants. When I was ten years old, I was Diagnosed with Diabetes. Over the years, this disease slowly damaged my Eyes and Kidney's.

Diabetic Retinopathy was my first complication. I was on Kidney Dialysis for over seven years. While on Kidney Dialysis, I had to have my right foot below the knee (B/K) Amputated. I am blind in my left eye and visually impaired in the right eye.

On July 25, 2001, I got the call that a Kidney was available. I rushed to the nearest Transplant Center which was 180 miles away. When I arrived, Your caring heart calmed my nervousness. You were there when they took me away for the Transplant Surgery and there when I woke up in intermediate care for the first day. You sat next to my bed. Each time I awoke, you were there for me. You were so caring to me and my family. When I needed pain medicine, you were right there. When I was sick, you touched my hand.

When I went through the same steps on November 25, 2005, you were there again. Waiting with your big heart. The time I was getting a Pancreas Transplant. I was very scared for I had been a Diabetic for thirty-two years and on insulin shots. You assured me that if I needed anything, all I had to do is push my call button. The care you share is not forgotten.

Today, my life is Full of Joy. I help others every day. I started an Amputee and Mobility Issues Support Group and became a Kidney/Pancreas Mentor. I also Ride Horses and Play Wheelchair Rugby! I remember how you showed me that a touch can comfort and a smile assures. I'd like to Thank You for all that You do and will do for other Organ Transplant Patients. You give us strength and encouragement. You Have Greatly Impacted My Life! Take Care.

Sincerely,

*Deborah (Debbie) McDonald*

Kidney Transplant Recipient- July 25, 2001

Pancreas Transplant Recipient- November 25, 2005

Piedmont Hospital- Atlanta, Georgia Transplant Center

Hometown- Albany, Georgia