

The background of the page is a light cream color, decorated with several butterflies in shades of blue, orange, and brown. The butterflies are scattered across the page, with some appearing larger and more detailed than others. The overall aesthetic is soft and artistic.

*To a Transplant Nurse,*

*It will be six years on November 5, 2008 since I was lucky enough to receive the gift of a kidney from my brother. When we arrived at the California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco at 6:30 a.m. the day of the surgery, my husband was prepared to supply me with the Ativan I had requested to help me relax while waiting. I never used it. Indeed, when he offered it, I suggested he might want to take it because he looked so nervous. He looked at me (usually the apprehensive one) somewhat perplexed and commented that I looked glowingly happy. That is how I remember my transplant experience. It was such a positive experience. It wasn't that there weren't challenges, it is just that they were all the usual ones and they could not diminish the overwhelming joy I felt about getting my life back,*

*Every single step of the way I was assisted by caring, capable nurses who helped me meet the challenges and shared in my excitement about how my life was changing. My nurses made me comfortable, made me laugh, made me feel safe and helped me to understand what was happening to my body. One was like an angel entering my room each morning with grace and sensitivity. Another arrived late in the afternoon offering to bring things in from the outside the next day...a decent newspaper, an excellent cup of coffee...and would stay to talk about things that filled me with laughter. A third worked only on the weekends and after a rapid fire introduction almost jumped up and down in her glee about the fact my transplant had been trouble free. Nothing was wrong, everything was right, no tweaking needed. I still remember her face flying through the door and her infectious enthusiasm. Each of these wonderful nurses has a place in my heart because they were a part of how my life changed so completely for the better.*

*My life on dialysis was stifling; my life with my brother's kidney is full blown. None of it could happen without you. Thank you for your role in giving life.*

*With heartfelt appreciation,*

*Ann Marie Gibbs*