

*Dear Transplant Nurse*

*On May 2, 2008, I donated a kidney to John. John and I are sitting here composing this "thank you," together. John and I met on the tennis courts. We became very good friends. We would play matches on the tennis court. John was having dialysis at that time, and was on a transplant list. I decided to see if we could have a match OFF the courts. And we did! A year later, after many tests, the date was set. We had our surgery at null.*

*During our recovery on the 9th floor of null Building, the transplant nurses were incredibly dedicated and caring. They soon discovered that if they couldn't find John, he was in my room visiting. If they couldn't find me, I was in John's room playing card games. They were understanding and would track us down to take our vitals, monitor our medications and provide encouragement. You could say they were "cheerleaders" for donors and recipients, always a smile and positive attitude. One special night of our "stay", our nurse found us in the solarium playing cards. It was dinner time and our trays were being delivered to our rooms. Without missing a beat, our transplant nurse brought our trays to the solarium so we could enjoy the 9th floor view of gorgeous San Francisco while we enjoyed our dinner. John and I fantasized that we were at the Top of the Mark Restaurant. The hospital suddenly became a famed restaurant. Our hospital gowns and IV poles didn't matter. On a daily basis, transplant nurses go out of their way to make their patients feel special, when in fact, they are the special ones.*

*Thank you very much. You are to be honored and applauded for your hard work and dedication.*

*Sincerely,*

*John and Ginny*