

**Dear Transplant Nurse:**

**I've been touched twice in my life by your true genuine compassion, care and understanding. My first Kidney Tx experience was in 1972 as a young 16 year old at UCSF. In the 70's Tx patients hospital stay was 3 weeks and so really received the opportunity to get to know each and every one of you. Became close friends and knew each other not only on a profession level, but personnel as well. Thank you for the opportunity to allow me help out in care for my fellow Tx friends on our floor by passing out snacks, going around reminding everyone to take their antacids and ask how everyone was doing. I would report any problems to you. This experience spawned me into nursing myself. We became so close we exchanged Christmas cards and one of you I encouraged to surprise her husband and get her driver's license; I kept telling her: "You can do this"! Next thing I knew a letter came telling me she did it. One of my favorite nurses came to my wedding along with my Nephrologist.**

**My second experience was in 2007 at Stanford Medical Center where my husband was my donor. After my 24 hour stay in ICU I was asked if I'd like to room in with my husband. You even moved patients around so we could be together. All the nurses there treated us like we were the only patients there at the time. When I had caught a bug one of the nurses was at my side almost the entire time. Others would check in to see how I was doing. If one medication did not work, one of the nurses would be back with another to try....etc.**

**My short week there compared to my stay in 1972 I was still able to get to know all of you. Your care you gave was above and beyond any care I had ever received or experienced in my small community hospital; which I was in many times. There was always one nurse who seemed to really care.**

**Lastly, the years that had past between 1972 and 2007 it appears that transplant nurses remain the same: Honest care, concern, positive comforting words, compassion, kindness, etc. I could go on forever.**

**Thank you all with my entire Kidney; to me you all are the angel of Florence Nightingale**

**God bless each and every one of you,**

***Karen Weddick***

**Fremont, Ca.**