

Dear transplant nurse,

"Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around." Leo Buscaglia

"Depending upon the kindness of strangers" has a whole new meaning when viewed through the eyes of a transplant family. You cared for our son not knowing who he was. You met him for only a few hours before his heart transplant. He was scared but didn't say anything. You held his hand as they wheeled him away from us. After his surgery you held my hand as I first gazed at him lying in his bed hooked up to umpteen tubes, catheters, and electrodes. My knees buckled when I saw him, unprepared for this body in front of me. I said to you, "machines are breathing for him and beating his new heart, how do I know his mind is his and he is truly alive?" You did the most wonderful thing that I will never forget. You took my hand and put it in his and said, "Squeeze your momma's hand, Danny." And he did!

You have continued to watch over my son and our family. Never sounding tired of all the questions, tired from calls in the middle of the night, tired of reminding us how important taking his meds is. You never seem defeated when a patient doesn't make it no matter how much hard you tried to help him. You have an unending supply of smiles and hugs even in the midst of your personal crisis.

Danny was 14 when he received his new heart. He is 25 now and waiting for another heart. But this time he is not afraid of what will happen. He has you to walk with him through it all again. Never give up doing what you do. We couldn't have made it without you.

We can never repay your kindness so with love in our new and used hearts we say "THANK YOU" for being you.

Rose Couey
Heart Mom - Danny 4-24-97



