



Dearest Transplant Nurse,

There are two thank you letters that a recipient like me doesn't know where to begin writing, or how to make the language match the deep feelings behind it.

The first of those letters is to our donor family and the second is to our transplant nurses.

I am 35 and have nearly died twice. The first time lung transplant saved me from cystic fibrosis and the second time I faced chronic rejection. When all of the medical team took a step back and told me there was no hope, one person took a step forward. My transplant nurse made it her mission to get me on the list again and she succeeded. Now over four years after my second double lung transplant, I do everything in the name of my donors and my savior, my transplant nurse, Becky. It is my focus to make a difference in this world and pay tribute to those who have made my ability to breathe a dream come true.

I don't know how you do what you do. To be a transplant nurse, to face the challenges and disappointments of caring for such ill people, takes a kind of courage and compassion I could only wish to know.

I cannot say I am like you. I can only say that you inspire me to be a better person, to live a better life and to use your passion as an example for my own life. To say "thank you" feels trite but it is the only language I know.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart, for the amazing work you do and the generous spirit with which you do it.

With overwhelming gratitude,

Tiffany Christensen