



*Dear Transplant Nurse,*

*Little did I know of the team effort involved in donating an organ. It proved to be an inspiring and humbling experience from beginning to end. I'm quite envious of those who stand on the front lines as these miracles are performed one after another. I know it isn't always roses and sunshine. In the case of a living donor I believe it's usually a happy story for the donor and recipient. But I know such a story is the exception. I've tried to imagine what it's like to be on the donating side when a beloved family member has passed and those who lovingly reassure, comfort and console a grieving family and speak of the gift of life that came from tragedy and heartbreak. The grace and dignity with which you put together such miracles is beyond words - thank you, thank you, thank you.*

*On October 5, 2007 I donated a kidney to someone I did not know. While I thought I had covered all the bases I had not thought much those who would see me through those first painful and difficult days after surgery. While still very groggy from the anesthesia the first words I heard after surgery were from a transplant nurse who said, "You did a wonderful thing." My eyes were still closed so I didn't see her face and these simple words were whispered in my right ear as I was wheeled from the post-operative recovery room. It was a touching and intimate moment between a patient and care giver. The small things really count and I'll never forget it.*

*Chad Hancey*

Layton, Utah

