

*Dear transplant nurse,*

*My name is Holly Kroeze. I was blessed with a second lease on life on June 3, 2001! I am 40 now and have had so many great things happen in my life that would not have occurred if not for the dedicated help of my transplant nurses. I had a bi-lateral lung transplant. After my transplant, my doctor told me that I really had 1 yr or less to live if I had not had my transplant. I fell in love in 2004 with the sweetest man in the world. I am now married to that very special man, Kevin, (my best friend)! I am also the mother of the most wonderful 12 yr old son. Conley was only 2 when I got ill. Now, we are proud to be the parents of a very intelligent, sweet young man.*

*I got ill in 1997, and was listed for transplant in 1999. I was diagnosed with an extremely rare disease called Lymphangioliomyomatosis or LAM for short. Some research at that time said the worst case scenario was that I would die in 5-10 yrs. This life changing experience has taught me a lot, including how short or long of a life we may have. Without the caring support of the many supportive transplant nurses at UCSF, I would not still be here to appreciate our precious and beautiful earth. I want to give my deepest, heartfelt thanks for all of the dedication of the nurses who have helped me pre-transplant, during the surgery, and of course, post transplant. There have been numerous times I have had to call on my nurses when I have had medication issues. Also, they have been so thorough in explaining things such as upcoming tests, results, and so many other issues I have had to deal with. Again, I would not be here if God had not provided the nurses/angels!*

*So, from the bottom of my heart, thank you to all of my very highly respected nurses and to all of the nurses in the world! You have made my life what is today, and give me so much hope for tomorrow (and the next day, and the next)... God Bless Transplant Nurses!*

*Sincerely,*

*Holly*