



*To A Transplant Nurse:
Thank You !!!*

The first person I saw after waking up from my transplant was the CICU nurse. Even though I was overwhelmed with the emotional impact of having a stranger's heart and lungs keeping me alive, I was also amazed at how wonderful and efficient this woman was. She took care of all my needs in a gentle and professional manner. She took the time to explain things to me and my family, and put everyone at ease.

Following intensive care I moved into step down care. The nurses there were just as fantastic. Even though they liked to refer to me as "low maintenance" since I was fairly independent, when I needed assistance or information, the transplant nurses were always there.

It's hard to fully address what my transplant has meant to me and my family. Here are just a few thoughts, and things that I'm grateful for:

** I walk all the time. Uphill, downhill, short distances, long distances, it doesn't matter, I can handle it. Last Sunday, as I have done 10 or so times before, my wife and I took a 6 1/2 mile walk around a local lake. Prior to transplant, with oxygen, I was not able to walk a 100 yards without stopping to catch my breath.*

** Since my transplant, my oldest son graduated from college, and my daughter and youngest son graduated high school. My daughter graduated college this past May. In July of 2007 my oldest son was married. My ability to be part of these milestones in my children's lives is due to God, a family dealing with a terrible tragedy who gave a stranger "The Gift of Life", and all those nurses, doctors, and other professionals who work so hard to make miracles happen.*

Thanks Again,

Chas 5+ yrs post Hrt/DbI Lung

