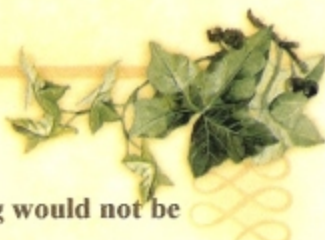



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“A nurse is simply an angel with a stethoscope” Without nurses our healing would not be possible.

I was transplanted 11 years ago at the Children’s Hospital in Philadelphia, when I was seven years old. Since I am graduating from high school and turning the page to a new chapter in my life, I frequently find myself thinking back on my past 11 years with a second chance and how grateful I am of the gift. As a young child I remember being in the hospital and waiting for my heart. Although I didn’t fully understand what was going on in my life, I was fully aware of the things going on in the hospital. I was often scared of all the needles and medicines. Most of the nurses would talk to me and make me feel as comfortable as possible with everything that was happening, and as I look back now I am filled with such a comforting feeling, to know that they could see the fear and wanted to take their time to help a child just as a mother would when there’s a monster in the closet. Because I was losing so much weight I would have to drink a protein shake every day, which I thought tasted terrible. I can remember some of the special nurses that would take time in their hectic schedule to sit and talk with me as I drank it, just to show me that I’m not alone and to calm the dread I felt every time I took a sip. Without these nurses I would have not been able to keep up the positive attitude and continue on with hope. Hope is the most beautiful gift a nurse can give their patient, with hope they have the strength to carry on through another day and that’s all a person needs when they are fighting for their lives. And with that I would like to thank each and every nurse for the time and effort they put into each of their patients. It truly does take a special person to be the one to help heal a person in need.

-Melissa Speck

June 13th 2008

To a transplant nurse,

I would say "Never give up on these transplant kids as I have seen so many pull through very critical times, and to always have HOPE!! And to remember how stressed the parents are, and that many nurses at Chop ended up being our nurses too giving comfort and assurance in a time of hopelessness(sp?). Hugs,

- Melissa’s mother,

Mary Speck

