

*To A Transplant Nurse:*

*My husband underwent heart transplant surgery on April 4, 2007. His recovery took longer than anticipated because he had several complications, but one month after his surgery he came home from the hospital and is now enjoying good health and doing remarkably well.*

*However, for the seemingly long time he spent in the hospital after his surgery (and several weeks before the surgery as he was so sick he had to be hospitalized until a heart became available for him), he had many ups and downs. Physically and emotionally, the whole process was like a roller coaster ride. It seemed like just when he would make it to the top, he would take a fast dive downward. There were days when one step forward would be followed by two steps backward. Then, little by little, there were more "ups" and less "downs", and eventually he managed to get well enough to come home!*

*The time that my husband spent in the hospital was very difficult for me, as we have two children, then 12 and 9 years of age. I was torn between spending my days with my husband as he worked to recover from his surgery, and spending as much time as I could with our children. I also was being pressured by my employer to come back to work, as I had taken so much time off already due to my husband's failing health prior to his transplant. Knowing that he was being taken care of by the wonderful team of transplant nurses made it much easier for me to leave when I needed to. It gave me a certain peace of mind to know that each and every one of my husband's nurses not only took care of him medically, but actually cared about him and would help him get through any difficult moments.*

*When people speak of organ donation and transplantation, the surgeons seem to be spoken of very highly (and they should be!). However, the transplant nurses that care for the patient from day one until that patient goes home should also be given recognition. I for one am very thankful to have been blessed with the many wonderful nurses who took care of my husband. Without their loving care, my husband's recovery would have been so much more stressful, not only for him but for me. Transplant nurses are very special people. They go above and beyond.*

*I would like to say Thank You for being there!*

*Sincerely,*

*Tracy Yish*

*Oxford, CT*