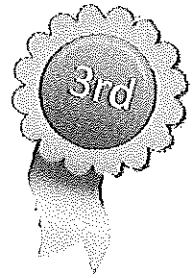


Sue Martinez, RN  
5East  
Nursing Essay Contest



“What about the nursing profession makes you passionate?”

Being a part of the nursing profession gives me a feeling of pride, a sense of fulfillment, and the desire to provide the best care possible. My passion stems from the circumstances and experiences I have been privileged to be a part of at Childrens Hospital LA. Passion is defined as “an intense desire or enthusiasm for something”. I made a promise to myself when I entered this profession 20 years ago. That promise was, and still is, that if I lose my passion or love for this job, I will no longer continue nursing. Our patients and families deserve to be cared for by someone who is passionate about what they do. Passion is what drives us to be our best. To provide the care that we want for our own families, our loved ones, and ourselves. Being a nurse is a privilege. To be entrusted with someone’s child is an honor.

While I was growing up, I spent many afternoon days with an elderly man who became somewhat of a Grandpa to me. He had suffered from a stroke and was very weak, recovering at home. He was cared for by his wife who was elderly and frail. They were an amazing couple but had difficulties with his disability. I became very close to them and decided I wanted to help him get better. Our daily routine started out with simple ADL’s but began to include walking from his bedroom to the kitchen. Eventually we made it outside together. Our short walks became longer each week. During our walks, we had time to talk about the future and what might lie ahead for me. His words were influential to my future. He told me that I was a child with a gift to help others. He strongly encouraged me to go into the field of medicine where he felt my “gift” could be utilized. I was proud of my accomplishments that he and I were able to achieve together. He made me realize that helping others was something more meaningful than words can describe. He gave me the passion to help others.

Today, I am a nurse practicing with passion at CHLA. Our experiences make us better each and every day. At Childrens Hospital we are given the opportunity to make a difference in someone else’s life daily. This is something that sparks my desire to be my best. We recently had a patient on our unit who was very ill. He was a child with severe developmental delay but treated as a normal child by his loving and devoted father. This father had recently lost his wife to cancer and had a second child at home with disabilities equal to his son’s. We recognized the father’s dedication immediately and his intentions to do what was best for his son. It was difficult for our staff to address the issue of AND but it was our responsibility for the dad to understand the severity of his son’s current illness. As this patient lived the last hours of his life with his dad by his side, we were able to provide the most peaceful, respectful, and comfortable transition from life to death. Though it was sad and painful to watch a father lose his son, it was with the greatest amount of care, concern, and passion that our staff supported this grieving family. The gratitude that this father had for the work that we do, made me realize that without passion, his experience would have been very different. The teamwork on our unit, along with the years of knowledge, dedication, and compassion makes me grateful that I have an incredible job not held by many.

So what is it about the nursing profession that makes me passionate? It is the feeling I get when a patient looks at me with gratitude in her eyes. It is the satisfaction I feel when a family comes to see me, years after their child has been cared for. It is knowing that I have made a difference in the life of a child. It is the feeling of pride when I tell someone I am a nurse at Childrens Hospital Los Angeles. I am passionate about nursing because I know that when I walk through the doors at CHLA each morning, I am working amongst the greatest group of people who are just as passionate as I am to do the best for each and every patient and family. Nursing with passion, it is how we practice.