

## *We Get Mail!*

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- **November 14, 2011:** Dear Dr. Kreher, We wanted to thank you for all of your efforts to help my other, MES, during her battle with Pancreatic Cancer. It was important that she receive help, advice and an ear that her family could not provide with the emotional and spiritual side of her battle. Thank you for listening and respecting her so. She trusted you greatly and often felt relief after visiting with you. You also made yourself available at such a confusing, horrible time, and helped mom with pain management in a way no one else could. I'm not sure how you do your job everyday, but I am extremely thankful that you and your job exist. – Fondly, R, E, L, & family
- Thank you so very much to your team. Your special & gentle care to our mother through this difficult time meant so very much to us. Special thanks to Erica Herb for your gentle touch.
- Dear Dr. Kreher: Thank you for your compassion and concern for our mother. We really appreciated your team evaluating her and being so direct and open with the information. We are so grateful for caring professionals like you and your team. We'll miss our mother terribly, but knowing she had so many people caring for her gives us peace.
- Dear Ms. Smeltz: On behalf of my sisters and myself, I thank you and the staff in Palliative Care for the excellent care you gave our mother, from the time she was admitted to the hospital on until she died in September 2011. We also express our gratitude for your concern for us, her family, over that weekend. She was surrounded by loving family members during that time and I was with her when she died peacefully. We ask God's blessings on the Palliative Care staff for the important and appreciated work you do every day!
- **January 7, 2011:** Dear Dr. Kreher, It was one year ago today that you helped my daughter find her way into the loving arms of her heavenly Father. There has rarely been a day when I have not thought of you and all that you did for M. and our family. It has taken me a year to feel strong enough to write to you to express my gratitude. I don't expect you to remember M. so I will remind you of her circumstances. She had Hodgkin's Lymphoma and had been admitted the day after Christmas with pneumonia. She was placed on a ventilator that same day. After discovering that her lymphoma had spread to her lungs and other organs, and after an unsuccessful wean from the vent we decided it was time to let her go. You had met with us once prior to that fateful day to discuss with us our concerns and were ready to accept our request immediately. Her father, our pastor and I were the only people in her room for her last

breaths. Her brother came in briefly but I am not sure you saw him. In some ways this past year has flown by, in others, it has seemed a lifetime. I was prepared to let M. go. I had time to say my goodbyes, but I was never prepared to be left behind. I struggled greatly with the loss of my daughter and not just a daughter but my best friend. Through a very supportive family, counseling and yes, medications, I have made it to the one year anniversary. There were days when I did not want to live but remembering how M. loved and lived her life until the day she was admitted to the hospital, I knew I had no right to give up. I miss her horribly still and my memories from the hospital still haunt me. Don't get me wrong, the people were great, very loving and compassionate. But to see M. deteriorate and to make the decision to end her earthly life will forever haunt me. You were a blessing to me and my family during that time and you made the worst moment of my life bearable. A thank you is so inadequate but it is all that I can offer. Thank you and know that you are frequently in my prayers for the difficult work you do. You are truly a messenger from God helping to bring his angels home. God's Blessings, KF

- Dear Dr. Glod: We just wanted to take a minute to thank you for all your help during the illness and passing of our husband and father, D. Your caring ways made his transition a much easier one. He died quietly and appeared to be very much at peace. Thank you for making arrangements so our family could spend the last few days of D's life together. We will never forget it. Sincerely, The C. family.
- Dear Dr. Kreher: I was very impressed with the caring compassionate care that you gave B. You made the transition so much easier for the family. This was my first experience with Palliative Care. Thank you so much. GS
- Thank you all for taking such good care of J & all of us during those difficult long months. We will never forget all your help and comfort shown us. God bless you. J & C.
- Dear Dr. Glod: Thank you for everything you did for my mom, C. Thanks for being there and taking the time to talk with me and my sisters.
- Dear Dr. Kreher: I have thought of you many times since D's death. Your presence was calming and reassuring. Your words were profound and comforting. Even the silences we shared are very strong memories which will continue to be with me. While I miss my sister very much, it helps to recall how much you cared and showed it. Receive my deepest gratitude for all you did to ease D's final journey and to help me release her. I will always remember you. Sincerely, PM
- I don't remember everyone who we met from palliative care (even with pictures), but I'll never forget Sue Glod. In our first two positive meetings with her we found her to be calm and quiet. That didn't stop her from taking charge when my husband got scared in the last hours of his life because of not being able to breath and the interns/residents didn't give him as much morphine as he wanted. Once she made him comfortable, she then asked my daughter and I if we wanted to know what was going to happen over the next few hours and when we said yes, she did so in a reassuring

way. Having her with us made a very sad experience as positive as it could be. I sent her a thank you email and she responded. All in all, a very positive experience.

- Dear Erica, Thank you and the staff for the guidance and prayers for LK. You were so helpful when my husband was very ill and we didn't know what to do. Sincerely AK