

WHAT OPERATION POPCORN MEANS TO HEALTH PROFESSIONALS



We, as healthcare providers recognize holidays such as Christmas can be a challenging time for families when losing a loved one. In my many years as an RN at Royal Columbian Hospital, I know that that as a tertiary hospital, we play a significant role in the organ donation program. Working in the intensive care unit can be incredibly challenging. The hours can be long, and caring for critically ill and unstable patients can be emotionally and physically challenging.

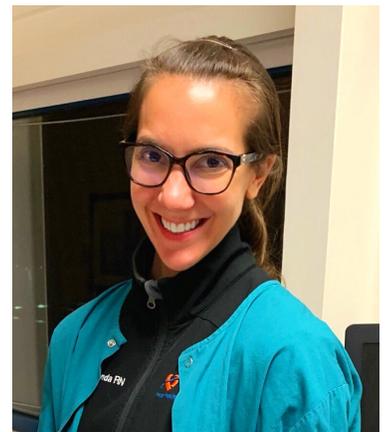
The balance of emotional fortitude is a skill we all acquire over time. While we are presented with these challenges, we are incredibly grateful and have this unique perspective of looking at the positive. Working with organ donation, you can not have happiness without sadness. One life has been shortened for another to be extended. As ICU nurses, we recognize that we are unable to change the situations that patients are facing but we are able to journey with them through these times. Having the opportunity to be a part of extending someone's life brings us some comfort in the hard times.

Each Christmas, ICU nurses look forward to enjoying the opportunity to visit with a recipient of organ donation. A life that has been saved and extended because of the teams of health professionals. We enjoy hearing their journey and hearing their appreciation of the work we do.

Covid-19 has definitely put a new spin on policies and procedures and we can appreciate that recipients are unable to visit at this time. It does not take away from our efforts and the gratitude we have for their situation and Operation Popcorn. - **Jennifer Reaveley**

I'm a registered nurse at Royal Columbian Hospital and I work in the ICU. Operation Popcorn has always been very uplifting. It's always nice to meet people who have received an organ transplant. One family's devastating misfortune can be another family's greatest treasure. It's always very emotional working alongside any donor patient and family, so being able to see the huge impact made with the end result is truly amazing.

- **Amanda Zeglinski**



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