



My passion...

“My passion stems from promoting health and wellness for not only our patients, but for our caregivers and staff. We cannot care for others, if we do not take the time to care for ourselves. We have been given the gift and opportunity to touch people’s lives and help brighten their day. A smile and positive attitude go a long way!”

Juli Chikaraishi, MPH, MS
**Project Manager, Supportive Care and
Palliative Medicine Team**

Letters from our Patients

ECMC Trauma Intensive Care Unit,

My husband Michael was brought into your unit after suffering a devastating brain injury from a slip and fall on ice. He passed away quietly after entering comfort care.

I am writing on behalf of myself, our children, and our extended family and friends. Thank you cannot begin to express our gratitude and appreciation to the wonderful people of the Trauma ICU team. From the moment he was brought in, both Michael’s and the family’s every need was immediately met. We know that because of your care, our beloved never suffered.

You allowed all his family and friends that could get there (it was during the snowstorm) to come and go, without hesitation you made sure we had everything we needed, including a room to decompress, food and beverages and genuine care and support. Everyone was honest and forthright about Michael’s condition, always keeping Mike’s wishes at the forefront. Time was taken to explain and re-explain his situation to any family or friend that asked or had questions. You were especially kind to Michael’s 93 year old mother, knowing how difficult it was for her to lose her dear son. The comfort quilt that was draped over my husband has become my security blanket now in facing a life without him.

I truly wish I could remember everyone’s name to thank personally, however, those days have become somewhat of a blur to me. I do remember Tracy, when he first arrived, Carol, Adam, the palliative care doctor, the neurosurgeons, and the lovely nurse who was with us when Michael passed. Please know that what you do every day is so very important. I remember through the haze of those days, that Carol said she felt it was a calling, not just a profession. I truly believe that.

Thank you all so very much. Michael and his family and friends were so blessed to have you all with us during his last days.

By copy of this letter to both the ECMC Foundation and Dr. Quatroche, a family donation in Michael’s memory to the building of the new Trauma ICU has been made.

With Our Love & Gratitude,

-The family of Michael, traumatic brain injury patient

