



# Teaming-UpDate

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## Invaluable Teamwork and Support

Life is a balance between obligations at home and at work. Sometimes, family and work commitments collide, and that is when the support of our team is most important.

LeAnn Lehman, a registered nurse in the medical intensive care unit at HealthPark Medical Center, knows first hand how important, comforting and amazing support from co-workers can be.

"In early 2011, my father was diagnosed with Stage IV Glioblastoma," LeAnn shares. "He was living in South Carolina so I had to do a lot of traveling and rearranging of my schedule to help care for him. Over the summer, I could see that his health was really declining, so in August, I moved my father and his family—his wife and his three children—into my home. From the beginning, the support from my work unit, and my boss, Karen Bono, has been phenomenal."

With all of her father's medical appointments and new responsibilities at home, Karen told LeAnn she should apply for Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) time. "Karen took the time to approach me about FMLA, help me with the paperwork and make sure that it was all turned in," LeAnn says. "She also takes the time to check with me—to check on my father and to make sure that I am dealing with things at home. Maybe this is all part of her job, but I have worked other places and not everyone goes to the lengths she does to be supportive. She has made this time with my father and trying to juggle multiple roles—mother to my three children, daughter, caregiver, wife and employee—more feasible."

LeAnn says Karen has even offered to come to the house to watch over her father so she can get some sleep.

And, it is not just Karen who stepped up in support of LeAnn—her co-workers have, as well.

"I was scheduled to work at Christmastime, and my co-workers—without my knowledge—took it upon themselves to write a letter to our supervisors asking to switch shifts so that I could be with my father," LeAnn says. "They told me that they wanted this Christmas to be really special for my family. It was unbelievable, and we did have a great holiday."

The compassion, care and concern shown by Karen and the MICU team members inspire LeAnn to focus even more on her commitments at home and at work. "It is so nice to know that we have each other's backs," she says. "I am so thankful to be able to work with such amazing people who, through their support and understanding, allow me to spend this precious time with my father."

LeAnn's experience reminds us that our team members are more than nurses, doctors, employees and volunteers; they are family members and friends with varying lives and situations. It also is a great reminder of the value of support and teamwork, in good and trying times.

Our thoughts and prayers are with LeAnn and her family as her father continues his fight.

Thank you for caring for our patients and each other—you truly are *caring people, caring for people*.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim". The letters are cursive and fluid, with a prominent loop on the 'j' and a long tail on the 'm'.

Jim Nathan  
President, Lee Memorial Health System