

April 7, 2025

Dear Friend,

Several years ago, I found myself facing a time of unexpected financial hardship. I was recently divorced and a single parent of four growing boys. Money was tight and anxiety was high.

Around that time, I learned that one of my sons needed urgent dental care, but I didn't have the money to pay for the treatment. A co-worker asked me if I knew about the Employee Helping Hands Fund, a program at Concord Hospital Health System dedicated to helping employees in times of need. I remembered getting a letter (like this one) in previous years, but I honestly hadn't paid too much attention to it — until it was my time of need.

I was able to meet with a kind woman who worked in the employee assistance program (EAP) at the Hospital, and she walked me through the process of filling out the necessary paperwork and getting me the help I needed for my son. The process was non-judgmental, and the woman followed-up to make sure my son was okay and that we had everything we needed.

To this day, I'm grateful for the assistance I never expected to need. I've also seen it help others, including a co-worker who was already dealing with her child's significant medical issues when her furnace broke one winter, and she couldn't afford to fix it. The Employee Helping Hands Fund took care of it and removed that stress from her life.

Because of my own personal experience and witnessing how the Fund has helped others, I now give every year so that I can help co-workers when they need it most. **In my 26 years here, I've come to realize that if we aren't taking care of each other, we don't have the ability to take care of our patients.** I'm a nurse at heart, and I always will be, but when I see colleagues and friends struggle with circumstances outside of work, I can see the impact it has on their ability to give what this job requires.

Please join me in giving whatever amount you are comfortable with, knowing that you can help alleviate stress for our co-workers' family during hard times, and make a positive impact on our ability to be good caregivers.

My sincere thanks for your consideration,

Shannon Clancy-Burgess, RN

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