

DECEMBER 2021

We've picked a DAISY!



DAISY winner Kristina with Danielle and her grateful family.

University of Maryland St. Joseph Medical Center is proud to present the DAISY Award to Labor and Delivery Nurse **Kristina Collins, RN.**

Kristina was nominated by Danielle, a patient, for the extraordinary and life-saving care and support she provided after a challenging pregnancy and childbirth:

GIVING BIRTH DURING A PANDEMIC is scary enough...Imagine giving birth and being faced with the decision

of choosing your own life or the life of your unborn child. Towards the end of my third trimester of pregnancy, I developed pre-eclampsia and HELLP syndrome. No one knew how severe it truly had gotten until I was admitted to the hospital. I was told I would have to have an emergency C-section under general anesthesia: In effect, my body was “rejecting” my pregnancy. Because of my conditions, my liver and kidneys had begun shutting down. My blood lost its ability to clot properly, and the nurses and doctors feared I was going to have stroke on the operating table.

The day I was admitted, Kristina Collins was my bedside nurse. She understood the extreme severity of what I was facing, yet remained calm and treated me as if she had known me whole life. The doctors

and nurses delivered my healthy, 9-pound, 8-ounce son—and then immediately turned their attention to me.

Over the course of the next three days, I remained on machines and relied on medicine to keep me alive. Kristina stayed with me the entire first day I was in the hospital. Day two was her day off, yet she was calling my charge nurse—seemingly hourly—to check on my status. She even switched shifts with another nurse to be by my side on day three of my stay in Intensive Care. She listened to me, fought for me and did everything in her power to make sure I was able to stay alive for my little boy. Once I was allowed to move from Labor and Delivery to the recovery unit, she made it a point to come and check on me before each of her shifts.

I am extremely thankful for everything she did to support and care for me, my husband and my newborn son. She is a saint and deserves to be recognized.

Additionally, when I was pregnant with my second son, I learned that Kristina was now a night-shift nurse. I reached out to her and shared my C-section date, hoping to see her when I was admitted. Not surprisingly, Kristina went one step above and asked to work day shift on that special date, with a request to be my nurse. Other than leaving the hospital with my beautiful baby, Kristina was 100 percent the highlight of my hospital experience.

Thank you, Kristina.

The DAISY Award®

celebrates nurses who provide extraordinary, compassionate and skillful care every day.

To learn more & to nominate a deserving nurse, visit umstjoseph.org/DAISY.

