

TSRC Cares Letter to my awesome Respiratory Therapy Professionals
By Michelle Barker

Ground zero and we see you. We may only see your eyes due to your N-95 mask, but we see you. You may feel exhausted but still, we see you. To my graduate and fellow Respiratory Therapist, we see you. I hope you are reading this and know the positive impact you have made on our profession. We all see you giving extra PEEP and trying to save lives. Proning the patient, retaping the endotracheal tube, and adjusting the ventilator to correct the patient dyssynchrony. We see you working to make a difference in the lives of people you don't even know. We see you holding your patients' hands when they take their last breath. We know how hard you work behind the doors of the hospital. You see more shortness of breath and tachypnea than ever before. Rapid Response, code blue, go get the glide scope and the crash cart, let's intubate. Intubation after intubation, more ventilators running at one time than any hospital has seen, makes the 19 months of this pandemic seem endless. We see you contorting your body to get the arterial blood gas on your prone patient. We see your nose is peeling not due to a sunburn from the beach, but from the pinching of the N-95 mask, and your ears look like Mike Tyson took a bite out of them. I would like to give every respiratory therapist a handshake and a hug, but due to the pandemic I can only give you thanks and praise from this TSRC cares letter. Just know your instructors still see you and talk to future respiratory therapist beaming with pride on what you are doing on the frontlines. We see you and talk about how awesome you are. We see you, appreciate you, acknowledge you, encourage you and most of all, Thank you. Thank you for the bright light you shine on our profession. Thanks to you, now the local news mention's the respiratory therapist, and we see you. Thanks to you, Diane Sawyer from CNN national news is noticing the impact and need for the respiratory therapist, and I beam with pride. So, the one positive from this pandemic is letting the world know about our Profession. The news coverage is getting the word out to let everyone know just how important your career is as a respiratory therapist. Guess what? Now the whole state of Texas and the World sees you!