Hi everyone!

This is Lucy, hope this email finds you well during this holiday season! I’m a junior at Emory University, and for the past few months, I’ve been working hard as a student in her first semester of nursing school. I’ve recently been reflecting on my growth as a nursing student. I feel like so many things have changed, and I’ve learned so much within the past year. Before nursing school, I was still so largely oblivious to all the cogs that make our hospitals run so smoothly. Now that I’m a nursing student, I get to witness first hand the determination, passion, and empathy that powers our healthcare workers. I also learn from my patients every day.

I feel like a lot of times, nurses can feel overwhelmed and stressed out. There’s so much on their plates. As a nursing student, I’m already experiencing some of the challenges that my future career choice presents - emotional hardships, understaffing, and the sheer toll of a pandemic. It’s easy to get lost within a routine of frustration. I witness this firsthand when I’m interacting with my patients. Exhaustion is a common theme in both our coworkers and patients.

Despite these challenges, I absolutely love what I do. The biggest reason for that is because even though we are put through difficult times, it is so incredibly rewarding when you walk past a room and see a patient who could barely walk last week dancing to a pop song on the radio with her visitors. The feeling of a payoff like that, especially after having gotten to know a patient and build a relationship with them is indescribable.

I love being able to support our patients and offering energy for their resiliency. One way I can honor their resiliency is by working with Camp Kesem. Camp Kesem is a nationwide program that provides a completely free week of summer camp for kids whose parents and family have been affected by cancer. Our East Atlanta chapter serves children in the metro Atlanta area, whose needs are often overlooked. Camp Kesem’s slogan calls itself “a child’s friend through and beyond a parent’s cancer.” Although it seems like more of a niche cause, being part of Camp Kesem is truly such a rewarding experience. Many of the kids who go to Camp Kesem have gone through times of fear and stress of losing a parent. Our camp helps them to just feel like a normal kid, even for a little bit. We also offer them year round peer support to offer strength during tough times.

Our camp is free for each child, which helps alleviate the financial stress on participating families. However, this means that we rely on support from our valued friends and family in order to make camp possible. We hope to serve over 90 children this year, and since today is Giving Tuesday, the annual Tuesday that emphasizes our role in making the world a better place, I hope you would consider donating to Camp Kesem.

Please consider making a gift today at <https://donate.kesem.org/fundraiser/3543127> !

My fundraising goal is $550 and any contribution would be greatly appreciated! Your gift will be immediately effective, helping us make Camp Kesem possible. Most of us can reflect on one person that we are beyond grateful for, whether that be a parent, a friend, or a relative. For me personally, it’s my mom. For many kids, it’s their parents. Especially in these chaotic times, even a little kindness would go a long way to do something really meaningful for these kids. With your support, we can take one step closer to our vision of ensuring that no child faces their journey with a parent’s cancer alone.

Should you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me via this email ([lucy.ma@emory.edu](mailto:lucyma902@gmail.com))! Have a very happy holiday and a happy Giving Tuesday!

Lucy Ma