

Heroes Beyond the Mask

Annette Jurkovac

“Ms. Tireless”

Registered Nurse in University Hospital

“
We're doing everything that
we can for the best possible
outcome and to give them back
”
their family member.

-Annette “Ms. Tireless” Jurkovac



My name is Annette Jurkovac, and I am a Intensive Care Unit nurse for CoViD patients. Our job is to rest the lungs. Let the ventilator do all the work so that the patients can overcome this virus. Besides medication, we're trending labs, collaborating with the medicine [ICU] team, and being the eyes and ears in case anything changes. You know, we have our goals for the beginning of the day, and we hope by the end of the day, our patients are in better shape than when we started. There's a lot involved in that.

With regards to work, our unit is no stranger to the type of stress and the type of illnesses that come through. We make the adjustments that need to be made. I'm honored to work alongside amazing nurses, respiratory therapists, physicians who are all proud to be serving the community. The culture here is focused on learning and working together.

It's important to have a balance in your personal life and job to alleviate yourself. I've become a homeschool teacher for my two teenage children, keeping them on track and being supportive at home for them to get them through the rest of the school year.

We're working really hard to bring everyone back, to have good outcomes. I would advise people to heed the warnings but take a break from the news to enjoy this quality time with our families.

Lastly, I want to thank everyone for the support that they've given us healthcare providers. We are spoiled on a daily basis at work with all the appreciation that comes out in so many ways. More than anything, I think the support and the appreciation from my own family. Without it, I couldn't go to work and feel like I could give it my all.