



# THE STRENGTH OF OUR PEOPLE

## A Hug of Gratitude

When the young, attractive woman – a victim of sexual assault - walked into Emergency with her friends, I could see the hurt and trauma in her face.

She didn't want to call the police. She didn't want to call anyone. She just wanted help.

During the long examination, the young woman experienced a roller coaster of emotions; laughing, crying, and averting her eyes when she spoke. When it was over she started to leave, then returned and threw her arms around my neck hugging me tightly.

“Thank you. I didn't want to go to the hospital. My friends made me... but I'm glad that I did.”

I'm so glad our team in Emergency was there when she needed us.

*Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner*

