MY NAME IS DANIEL

A short story by Hillary Gardner

Based on “The Hospital”
From the TV series “We Are New York”
My name is Daniel.

I am a nurse.

I work in a hospital.

I am from the Philippines.
This is my coworker.
Her name is Alisha.
She is a nurse, too.
We work together in the hospital.
We help each other with problems on the job.

One of Alisha’s patients is very sad.
Her name is Mrs. Medina.
She had a terrible accident.
She is afraid she will never walk again.
This is Mrs. Medina’s doctor, Dr. Patel.
She is a surgeon.
She operated on Mrs. Medina’s leg.
She says Mrs. Medina is going to get better.

But, Mrs. Medina misses home.
She wants to go home and be with her family.
She is tired of the hospital.
She is depressed.
Alisha is worried about Mrs. Medina.

“What can we do to help her?” she asks.

I have an idea.

“Maybe if she talks about happy times, Mrs. Medina will feel better.”
The next day, Alisha brings a photograph to work. It’s a photograph of Alisha’s home when she was a young girl.

Alisha shows Mrs. Medina the photograph. They talk about happy times.

Mrs. Medina remembers she loved to draw when she was a young girl. “Can you draw something that makes you happy?” Alisha asks. Alisha gives Mrs. Medina some paper and markers.
Mrs. Medina starts to draw.
She draws a picture of Dr. Patel.
Dr. Patel is wearing a cape.
Dr. Patel looks like a superhero!

Mrs. Medina draws a picture of me.
I am holding a big bandage and running to help.
The title says, “To The Rescue.”
Mrs. Medina draws a picture of Alisha.
Alisha is holding a thermometer and a magic wand.
Alisha looks like a superhero, too.

Mrs. Medina feels a lot better now.
She gives the pictures to Alisha.
“Take them. They are yours,” she says.
“They are for everyone.”
This is Orlando.
He is a maintenance worker at the hospital.
Orlando hangs the pictures on the wall.
Everybody is very pleased.
The pictures look great!

Alisha shows the pictures to the hospital staff.
Everybody likes the pictures.
Dr. Patel has an idea.
“Let’s put the pictures on the wall,” she suggests.
Workers on the other floors want pictures, too.

Alisha has an idea.

“Let’s have an art show,” she suggests.

Everybody likes the idea.

But first, we have to talk to Dr. Collins.

Dr. Collins is the medical director of the hospital.

Then, Mrs. Medina makes a drawing of Dr. Collins.

He says,

“Art in the hospital... I love it!”
I make a flyer for the art show.
I hang the flyers all over the hospital.
I hang the flyers on the bulletin boards.

This is Clayton.
He is a janitor in the hospital.
He is from Queens.
He paints with his mop!
His “mop art” is in the art show.
This is Halina.
She is a food service worker in the hospital.
She is from Poland.
She takes photographs of everyday things.
Her photos are in the art show, too.

This is Toni.
She is a security guard in the hospital.
She is from the Caribbean.
She makes costumes for the West Indian Day Parade.
She makes a costume for the art show.
And, this is Nguyen Tran.

She is a journalist.

She is a newspaper reporter for the *Big City News*.

She writes a newspaper article about the art show and about us.

Now, we are famous!

Everybody is very proud.

The hospital looks great.

We wanted to help Mrs. Medina, and...
Mrs. Medina is healthy and happy again!
She is at home with her family in Queens.
Thanks to her, we feel like heroes.