

Giving Hope To The Hopeless

Informative Essay

By

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When people walk into the DMV to get a driver's license, they are faced with an important decision. Each person is asked: are you willing to become an organ donor. It seems so easy to say no, after all, it seems like an awful process. Not many people think about the 119,000 people awaiting an organ transplant in the United States of America annually and the 1,000,000 needing tissue transplants annually. It is sometimes hard for potential donors to sympathize with patients that need transplants. It is necessary for everyone to step into the mind of the patients, and see the sincere gratitude that the patients and families experience when patients receive organs and tissue. For many of the people that decide not to become donors, it may have changed their minds to consider that someday a family member or friend could be affected because at any given time about 750 New Mexicans await kidney, heart, liver, lung, pancreas, and intestine transplants.

Touching life stories from organ transplantation include that of Steve Ferkau, a man born with Cystic Fibrosis. Many people's quality of life is terrible just like Steve's. Steve explains that he had "ten percent lung capacity" for many years. (1) Steve was given the gift of life from a complete stranger and bases many of his daily decisions and his life outlook on his receipt of the generous donation. Though the woman that gave her lungs to Steve was deceased, Steve tries to give back and learned how truly precious it is to truly live. Steve is an inspiration to many waiting for organ transplants, and encourages them by telling his story and assuring other patients that there is more "possible" than many people believe while in despair. An important part of what Steve does is encouraging people to become donors. Becoming a donor is something most people hardly consider, until an example comes into their lives.

Steve received a product from a selfless act, and he is a perfect example of the best outcome of organ donation. After all, out of those 750 New Mexicans awaiting organ transplant, one of those could be your grandmother or mother, or close friend. Life often surprises people. An individual who received a heart transplant was surprised when she found out she had heart disease. She was feeling “weak, tired and frequently out of breath” and eventually she thought to herself that she “was in [her] final days”. (2) Amalia says “for me, it was a new life. But for some other family, there had been a great sadness” as she explains the situation of her donor. (2) Amalia has since found new passions by donating her hair and volunteering at her local church (2). Amalia’s family was very happy; her husband Eduardo, her children, and her four grandchildren were all happy to have their wife, mom and “abuela” back.

Both Steve and Amalia are inspiring examples of why each person should say yes immediately when asked about being a donor. After all, each day there are over 79 organ transplants that take place in the United States of America, and so there are many inspiring stories similar to these (3). Just think; with one simple decision, you could impact someone’s life significantly and positively. Similarly, about 18 people die each day awaiting an organ transplant, and their hopes are forever terminated (3). Though many of these people are over the age of 36, a high percentage of these people are much younger (3). Additionally, over half of the patients live more than five years after their transplant surgery (3).

These statistics are not just numbers, as you can see, they are real people. These people may have lives with families and dreams not so different from your own.

Just imagine; as you make a decision that hardly impacts you, you could help another person discover the whole world. You could give hope to the hopeless.

Works Cited

1. "Life Stories; 94 Floors and One Amazing Story." Organdonor.gov, Welcome to Organdonor.gov. US Department of Health and Human Services.
2. "Life Stories: A New Heart for Eddie's Abuela" Organdonor.gov, Welcome to Organdonor.gov. US Department of Health and Human Services