



Please Help Karen Find a Kidney

My name is Karen Reid, wife, mother, grandmother and retired school teacher. Many may already know that several of my family members have had diabetes and/or kidney disease. I have suffered from Type II Diabetes and complications associated with it for over twenty-eight years and as a result, I now have stage four chronic kidney disease. Early signs of kidney damage began for me in 2014. To date, my kidneys have lost 85 to 90 percent of their function, which can result in the buildup of waste products in the blood that can lead to high blood pressure, anemia, bone disease, heart disease and other cardiovascular diseases and if not treated, death.

During this challenging time, I am thankful for my faith in God and for the love and support of my husband, Larry, two adult children, one grandchild, and a host of family members and friends. I have been on UNC Chapel Hill's active transplant waiting list since August of 2019. The average wait time for a transplant in North Carolina is 5 to 6 years. My doctors have told me that my best option is to find a living kidney donor. Not only would a living donor allow me to avoid dialysis, but it would also provide me with the best quality kidney and the kidney would last longer than a kidney from a deceased donor. A kidney from a live donor functions on average **12 to 20 years** and a deceased donor kidney last on average from **8 to 12 years**. Patients who get a kidney transplant before dialysis live an average of 10 to 15 years longer than if they stayed on dialysis.

If you or if you know of someone who might be interested in donating a kidney or even learning more about the process of living donation, please contact the Living Donor team at UNC Hospitals. Here is the contact information: Amy Woodard, RN, Living Donor Coordinator, Ph# 984-974-7568 livingdonors@unchealth.unc.edu Please share this message on your social media sites. Ten percent of the funds raised will be donated to the National Kidney Foundation.

The average kidney transplant costs more than \$414,000, and that's only the beginning. Even with insurance, I still face significant expenses related to the surgery. I will need follow-up care and anti-rejection medications for the rest of my life. Even after a successful transplant, post-transplant medications are very expensive, and they're as critical to survival as the transplant itself. If you'd like to make a monetary donation (funds raised will offset unexpected expenses, as well as financial burdens on the donor). **Please make your check payable to The Cathedral of Hope Church and in the memo section, write Karen's Kidney. *Please mail your check to:**

**Karen Reid
P.O. Box 17251
Chapel Hill, NC 27516**

I am grateful for your consideration.

May God Bless You,

Karen M. Reid