

Trevor Fordy – Live Organ Donor Appeal

In the August 2021 issue of the NARPO NEWS [Issue 107], I noted Page 13 carried an interesting article from John BIRKENSHAW, Secretary of the Leeds Branch relating to a February 2020 appeal for a live kidney donor. Entitled 'NARPO Helps Find Kidney Donor to Save a Life', the article provided details of a successful appeal from Leeds NARPO member Gordon GARFIT, a close friend of John, who was openly appealing for a kidney donor for his son David, a young man now domiciled in Australia.

Whilst the appeal which was broadcast nationwide by NARPO proved particularly effective with several 'selfless people' coming forward offering to donate a kidney, thankfully David was eventually able to find a suitable donor within Australia.

While I found the article extremely gratifying and to a great extent reassuring it was a situation that chimed with my own current circumstance in that my young stepson Adam, originally from Northamptonshire [who came to me when aged only 3] has a similar requirement and desperately needs to identify a live kidney donor. Adam whose kidney has now ceased to function is surviving only on dialysis with 4 hour sessions 3 days a week which is something which cannot go on forever. Importantly, the donation of a 'live kidney' rather than a kidney from a deceased donor provides a much better chance of success.

Adam was unfortunately born with a genetic kidney problem and notwithstanding relevant issues were identified by a north east hospital when he was only 5, due to an error with record keeping etc that information wasn't communicated back to us, his parents, or to other medical professionals. Had that been the case then Adam's condition could have been medically managed until later in life. The hospital has since admitted medical negligence.

Adam turned 24 on the 13 February, and the knowledge that he might be successful in receiving a donated live kidney would be a massive boost for him both physically and mentally and a wonderful birthday present.

To date I am the only person on the live donor list, but at 72, I am not seen by the transplant surgeons as being an ideal candidate. Therefore, taking a steer from the NARPO article I recently approached my local NARPO who agreed to publish a similar appeal in its local publication the 'Northumbria Bobby'. Although the appeal went out in the December 2021 edition of the 'Bobby' I have been advised by the Newcastle Freeman Hospital that no potential donors have come forward.

In light of the current position NARPO HQ has agreed to contact the various NARPO branches asking if they would kindly consider publishing/broadcasting a similar appeal on behalf of my stepson Adam who is in desperate need of a kidney. Having already had a kidney transplant when a teenager that transplanted kidney has now ceased to function and he is therefore totally reliant on dialysis sessions.

Of course we realise that our request is a 'Big Ask' for anyone to consider but we would be indebted to anyone who could help. Like the appeal from Gordon GARFIT

in Leeds, we are willing to pay any related expenses [travel, hotel costs, loss of wages etc] in relation to potential donors.

Potential donors can contact me in the first instance or if they would rather not they can make direct contact with the Live Transplant Coordinator Julie Wardle at Newcastle upon Tyne's Freeman Hospital on tlu-tr.LiveRenalDonor@nhs.net

Thank you for your time which is gratefully appreciated.

Regards,

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