

THE POWER OF PRE-EMPTIVE TRANSPLANTS



JOEY BIRCH WAS DETERMINED NOT TO END UP "IN THE CHAIR" + HE SUCCEEDED. WITH A TRANSPLANT HE HAD ZERO DAYS ON DIALYSIS!

When Joey Birch found out he had inherited Polycystic Kidney Disease (PKD) from his father, one of the most common, life threatening genetic diseases that affects thousands of Americans every year, he was determined to keep his kidney function stable for as long as possible.

After watching his father dialyze for five years before receiving a kidney transplant, Joey knew he did not want dialysis to be part of his future if he could help it. However, in 2012, Joey's glomerular filtration rate (GFR), or kidney function, began dropping, so his nephrologist referred him to Reach Kidney Care of Spartanburg, SC.

"My care coordinator there told me what I needed to do to maintain my kidney health, and more importantly, that I was a good candidate for a transplant," he said. "Reach Kidney Care was responsible for getting me on the transplant waiting list and educating me about the opportunity for a living donor transplant."

After this Reach Kidney Care meeting, his wife, Paige, was tested to see if she could be a potential kidney match. It turned out that the woman he married was a perfect match in more ways than one! On December 5, 2013, Paige was able to become Joey's living organ donor.

In Joey's lifetime, he's sent cancer into remission, walked again after a motorcycle accident required an amputation of his left foot, and in 2013, successfully prevented the need for dialysis by receiving a pre-emptive kidney transplant. Today, Joey works full-time making prosthetic limbs for amputees.

"A pre-emptive transplant is a better life," he shared. "This transplant was one of the best experiences I have ever had. Truly, one of the happiest days of my life."

Learn more about Joey's journey on our website: www.dciinc.org/ourpatients/



Hosmer Parsons, MO
Transplanted October 1997
0 days on dialysis



Eileen Werner, MO
Transplanted December 2015
0 days on dialysis



Roswitha Wilkerson, TN
Transplanted March 2016
0 days on dialysis



Shirley Tyus, TN
Prepared for pre-emptive transplant this summer
0 days on dialysis

TRUTH:

Less than 1/3 of kidneys transplanted were from living donors in 2013. (USRDS, 2015)

We offer early education to drive pre-emptive transplants & understand living donation.

TRUTH:

The kidney transplant waiting list currently has 99,886 candidates. The median wait time is 3.6 years, about 561 dialysis treatments. (UNOS, 2016; USRDS, 2015)

We recognize the wait is long. We strive to make dialysis the short-term solution for those desiring a transplant.

TRUTH:

16% of kidneys recovered from deceased donors were discarded in 2013. (USRDS, 2015)

We are persistent in the search of methods to overcome barriers to organ donation.