

A MOTHER'S PLEA

Mother's Day, this year, inspired me to think about the gifts of love shared in life, especially amongst our families. When my two girls were young, their simple hand-made gifts, like the proverbial dried macaroni cards, made me smile and they always said "I love you ." Through the years, their gifts became more sophisticated, and now they honor me by bringing their families together over a thoughtfully-prepared meal, sharing memories, stories about the present, and hopes for the future.

Unfortunately, in recent years, the vision of the present and the future have grown dimmer. My daughter, Sue Wright, is in desperate need of a kidney. Most of you reading this, may not know her, but she is a wonderful person, full of life with so much to give. I know that if she regained her health with a new kidney, she would put it to good use by giving back to her communities. She already has a history of turning her suffering and/or pain into a blessing for others. For example, after losing her husband, she became involved in both the funeral and bereavement ministries in her church; she has also given inspirational talks to various groups.

Sue has been on dialysis for more than six years. Four times a week she is hooked up to a dialysis machine that partially performs the function of a kidney by filtering her blood of impurities. The process itself takes four hours each time. Because dialysis cannot continually clean the blood through the day and night, and because it is very strenuous on the heart, many dialysis patients die while waiting for a kidney.

As a mother, I worry and pray daily. In 2001, I gave Sue one of my kidneys, sadly, the kidney eventually failed. Few mothers get to give life to the same child more than once. And I am hoping, by writing this plea, to help her get that gift yet again.

If the Spirit is moving you to make a difference, won't you please consider donating a kidney to Sue?

Now don't let fear get in your way. Here is some information to consider:

- Your health and life-span will not be diminished living with only one kidney.
- Sue's insurance will cover your testing, doctor visits, and hospitalization.
- The kidney can be removed laparoscopically which means your recovery could be days, not weeks.

If you are inspired to make a difference and help save a life, or if you just have questions, please call Gregor Winkel, Sue's fiancé at 347-302-8682.

Whether or not you can donate, please keep Sue in your prayers.

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for considering my plea. I appreciate it more than I could express in words.

God bless you!

Mary Lou Grone