

Video-Audio Transcript for Organ Donation

April Post-Two time kidney recipient

April felt supported by the congregation at her College Park Church in Normal.

“They helped me with my daughter, helped me financially every once in a while if I needed help, just prayed with me, yeah.” (:12)

Post immediately felt better after surgery.

“I had so much energy and I was so hungry. When I was on dialysis, I had no appetite. I could hardly eat anything. (After surgery) I was so hungry and so energized. It was awesome.” (:17)

Post says she no longer had the kind of brain fog that plagued her during dialysis. She managed to return to Illinois State University for a bachelor’s degree in Health Information Management.

“Because I had a clear head, I made the Dean’s List. (laughs) And, I had never done that because now I could actually think and I actually had energy to do it.” (:13)

Post now works as a contract tracer for the McLean County Public Health Department and feels blessed every day.

“I mean I don’t know what I would do if I passed away (and left) my daughter. I know people can be on dialysis for a long time but they do not have a quality of life. They don’t.” (:16)

Kelly Stogner-Living kidney donor

Stogner felt a connection to April Post.

“I could see myself in her and I could see her as a mom, making the best of a situation that she had no control over and just wanting to live the best life she could for herself and her daughter and I thought if I could help, why wouldn’t I?” (:15)

Stogner put her trust in God in deciding to donate.

“I don’t do a lot of ‘what ifs’ like some people say, ‘What if you need it later? What if somebody in your family needs it later?’ I trust that God will take care of that when the time comes and it might not ever happen so I can make a difference now with somebody who needs it, so why wouldn’t I?” (:17)

Because her congregation was supportive, Stogner thought it was fitting to deliver the news of a match after a church service.

“Her church had been with her along the journey and some people had tested and weren’t approved to be a donor so it was very much an answer to the prayer for the entire congregation so for them to experience that as well I think was exciting for them.” (:15)

The transplant team made her feel like a VIP.

“I was treated I feel like a princess in the hospital. Everyone was very kind and came to check on me to make sure everything was going very well. I had a great experience.” (:11)

As for the surgery, Stogner called it, “one of the easiest things I’ve ever done.”

“I was hiking within two weeks. I had flown on a vacation two weeks after and hiked in Arizona. It didn’t stop me from doing what I wanted to do and what I normally would do.” (:14)