

## **Giving Life: A Cross-Country Paired Exchange**

OSF HealthCare Newsroom

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### **TV PKG SCRIPT**

#### **INTRO:**

TO TRAVEL FROM MAHOMET ILLINOIS TO MIAMI FLORIDA... WOULD TAKE YOU OVER 19 HOURS BY CAR... 4 HOURS BY AIR... AND A CROSS-COUNTRY TRIP OF NEARLY 13-HUNDRED MILES.

BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SAVING LIVES – NO DISTANCE IS TOO FAR.

OSF HEALTHCARE'S MATT SHEEHAN INTRODUCES US TO A CENTRAL ILLINOIS MAN... WHO GOT A NEW LEASE ON LIFE... FROM A GOOD SAMARITAN... FAR AWAY FROM HOME.

#### **TAKE PKG**

<<( **QUINTIN** “They said, ‘I don’t know if you’re aware of this, but you’re at Stage 3 of your kidney disease. And I went WHAT?!”

THAT’S QUINTIN PORTER. A FATHER OF TWO AND FORMER STANDUP COMEDIAN WHO HAS BATTLED BACK FROM MULTIPLE CAR ACCIDENTS.. CANCER.. AN IRREGULAR HEARTBEAT... AND MORE.

AND THE END OF 2019 BROUGHT HIM MORE BAD NEWS. HE HAD TO GO ON DIALYSIS TO HELP TREAT HIS KIDNEY DISEASE. BUT IN MARCH 2022 – HIS WHOLE LIFE CHANGED.

**QUINTIN** “I couldn’t believe it. That sets off a whole bunch of emotions.”

THESE JOYFUL EMOTIONS STEM FROM SOMEONE PORTER HADN’T SPOKEN TO IN NEARLY 4 DECADES. HIS HIGH-SCHOOL GIRLFRIEND... CHRISTINE STOTT... WHO LIVES IN ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS – MORE THAN 2-AND-A-HALF HOURS FROM QUINTIN.

**CHRISTINE** “He has high-school aged boys. And they’re just watching their father get sicker and sicker.”

CHRISTINE SAYS THIS IS THAT TOP OF THE MOUNTAIN EXPERIENCE IN HER LIFE... AND SHE KNEW SHE NEEDED TO DO SOMETHING. SO SHE OFFERED TO DONATE QUINTIN HER KIDNEY.

BUT THERE WAS JUST ONE PROBLEM – CHRISTINE IS PETITE... QUINTIN IS NOT.

A HONEYBEE AND A BEAR – AS PORTER PUTS IT.

BUT DOCTORS AT THE TRANSPLANT CENTER AT OSF HEALTHCARE IN PEORIA ILLINOIS KNEW OF ANOTHER WAY. SOMETHING CALLED A PAIRED EXCHANGE.

**DR. JOHNSON** “We have a person here, who has a perfectly healthy kidney, Blood Type O... can go to anyone! But it’s smaller than what would be ideal for the recipient. So we knew, if we put this into a national exchange, we’re going to benefit someone else.”

DR. CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON – A NEPHROLOGIST WITH OSF HEALTHCARE – SAYS RIGHT NOW THERE ARE NEARLY 100-THOUSAND PEOPLE IN THE U.S. WAITING FOR A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT. WHILE THE WAIT

CAN OFTEN LAST YEARS -- THIS OPPORTUNITY PROVIDED THE CHANCE TO NOT ONLY SAVE QUINTIN'S LIFE... BUT SOMEONE ELSE'S TOO.

**DR. JOHNSON** "Someone who needs that 0, is gonna get that 0. And we're going to be able to get a better sized kidney for our patient. And the whole system is going to benefit."

THAT TAKES US NEARLY 13-HUNDRED MILES SOUTHEAST TO MIAMI, FLORIDA. WHILE CHRISTINE'S KIDNEY SIZE WASN'T RIGHT FOR QUINTIN -- ERIS DIAZ'S WAS. AND BECAUSE OF THE NATIONWIDE PAIRED EXCHANGE PROGRAM -- HE WAS ABLE TO DONATE HIS KIDNEY AT MAYO CLINIC FLORIDA... WHICH WAS THEN TRANSPORTED TO PEORIA AND PLACED IN QUINTIN. ERIS SAYS HE'S HAPPY TO HEAR QUINTIN HAS A NEW LEASE ON LIFE.

**ERIS DIAZ** "When you give a kidney for another person, you give life."

BECAUSE ERIS' DONATION HELPED SAVE QUINTIN... THIS OPENED THE DOOR FOR CHRISTINE TO DONATE HER KIDNEY TO SOMEONE IN CLEVELAND, OHIO. CHRISTINE SAYS IF SHE COULD DONATE A KIDNEY AGAIN TO SAVE SOMEONE ELSE'S LIFE -- SHE WOULD.

**CHRISTINE** "I've done something I never thought I could do. And I'm fine, I'm better for it in fact."

SO NOW QUINTIN IS LOOKING AHEAD AT A BRIGHTER FUTURE... BECAUSE OF A SACRIFICE FROM A GOOD SAMARITAN 13-HUNDRED MILES AWAY.  
REPORTING FOR OSF HEALTHCARE... I'M MATT SHEEHAN.)>>

PKG TAG

THE OSF HEALTHCARE TRANSPLANT CENTER PERFORMS APPROXIMATELY 60 KIDNEY TRANSPLANTS A YEAR.  
THEY SERVE PEOPLE ACROSS ILLINOIS... WHO ARE LOOKING FOR THAT LIFE-SAVING PROCEDURE.

**TRT: 2:57**

**Supers: 0-9 -- Quintin Porter | Kidney Transplant Recipient | Mahomet, Illinois**

**48-55 -- Christine Stott | Longtime Friend, High-School Girlfriend of Quintin**

**1:20-1:33 -- Dr. Christopher Johnson | Nephrologist at OSF HealthCare Transplant Center**

**2:20-2:29 -- Eris Diaz | Donated Kidney to Quintin**