

Life on the kidney transplant list



Gloria Baker awaits a kidney donation

my desk by elevating my legs to prevent swelling. Today, I have good vital signs as I continue to wait for a donor kidney.”

Gloria’s plea is not only for herself but for over 80,000 people in the United States waiting for a kidney transplant. Gloria says, “It’s not an easy decision to be an organ donor. I have been afraid to ask my co-workers and I don’t want to make them feel guilty for turning me down. I plead for everyone to learn more about living organ donation as well as donating organs in the unfortunate event of an untimely death. I want to live a long and healthy life with my daughters and it will only be through the selflessness of a kidney donor that I’ll be able to do that.”

Living kidney donor facts:

- The IRS grants up to 30 days of [paid leave for organ donation](#)
- The recipient’s insurance pays all costs for testing and surgery
- Minimally invasive surgery done through three small incisions
- Donor hospital stay is three to five days with full recovery in about a month
- No limitations on donor’s future activities

Gloria Baker (EDI, Dallas) needs a kidney transplant. She’s been on dialysis for the past five years. This is her story of what life is like waiting for a kidney donor.

“Each time I go to dialysis, I pray for a good treatment. After they insert the needles into my arm the blood goes through the tubes and into the machine. It’s three and a half hours every Monday, Wednesday and Friday after work. When I’m done I feel great. My sister is always telling me to get some rest. But if I stop doing things, my mind is on my condition and I don’t want that to slow me down. There’s some days I don’t feel like Superwoman, but I have learned to slow down a little.

“Dialysis is not a cure but it helps to keep me alive. I asked my doctor why I’m not tired like the other patients and he told me it’s because they have other medical conditions. I declared from that day I would follow the rules to keep myself healthy. For a while, I suffered from anxiety just knowing I had renal failure. But, through Christ, I got over it. I wondered how will my two daughters make it if I am not around? All kinds of things go through my head and I can’t sleep at night. My co-workers keep my spirits up when they tell me I never complain, which is true. That makes me stronger.

“I have co-workers that have been with me all the way, whenever I needed to be rushed to the doctor from home. I’ve had help coming into the office before I got on dialysis. Others were there to help me into the office from the parking lot and would then drive my car back. I’ve had help getting situated at

Do you have any direct or indirect experience with organ donation?