

# Press Release

## Contacts

Laurie Reece, Executive Director  
Alliance for Paired Donation  
[laurie.reece@paireddonation.org](mailto:laurie.reece@paireddonation.org)  
[www.paireddonation.org](http://www.paireddonation.org)  
512-961-6199

Deb Robison, Media Coordinator  
Alliance for Paired Donation  
[debrobison@gmail.com](mailto:debrobison@gmail.com)  
720-301-8530



### **The Alliance for Paired Donation Announces:**

#### **First Anniversary Celebration Recognizing Kidney Donors and Recipients Matched by APD \*\*Photo & Interview Opportunities With Kidney Recipients & Donors\*\***

Toledo, OH – October 7, 2008. The Alliance for Paired Donation (APD) announces its First Anniversary Celebration to recognize the living kidney donors and recipients who have been connected through the efforts of APD. A dinner and silent auction will be held on October 18, 2008 at the Hilton Garden Inn at Levis Commons in Perrysburg, OH (greater Toledo area.) Of note, Matt Jones, the altruistic donor who started the world's first NEAD (Never-Ending Altruistic Donor) Chain will be recognized for his generous act of donating a kidney to someone he didn't know prior to the transplant. Because of Matt's generosity, 10 people have now received a life-saving kidney transplant. The ten transplants span six states and five transplant centers, and were carried out over an eight month time period in 2007 and 2008.

Additionally, Tracy Armstrong, who started the second altruistic donor chain, will be present, along with two recipients in his chain. The fourth donor in this chain is scheduled to donate a kidney on October 14. The third NEAD chain began at the end of August, and the fourth chain is set to begin this month in Texas.

Also to be recognized are the donors and recipients who have been helped through traditional exchanges facilitated by the APD. Most recently, a three-way paired exchange took place

between three transplant centers (in Colorado, Alabama, and North Carolina) in three time zones. The surgeries were made possible through the computer matching program offered by the Alliance for Paired Donation, a Toledo-based non-profit organization that seeks to shorten the waiting time for kidney recipients through kidney paired donation using living donors. Typically, paired exchanges match two pairs who each have a willing, but incompatible, living donor. Altruistic donor chains (dubbed NEAD chains by the APD) allow for many more people to be helped, and allow for paired exchange transplants to occur sequentially, rather than making it necessary for them to be done simultaneously.

Michael Rees, MD, PhD, Medical Director of the Alliance for Paired Donation, said “This event is to celebrate and honor the incredibly generous people who have been willing to give a kidney so that their loved one could receive a kidney. We especially want to recognize those ‘Good Samaritan’ donors who don’t have a loved one needing a kidney, but whose willingness to go the extra mile enables someone to live a more productive, healthier life.”

Honorary program chair for the event is actor Jamie Farr, and other program committee members include Senators Sherrod Brown and George Voinovich. Many supporters from the University of Toledo Medical Center, which serves as a flagship transplant program in the Alliance for Paired Donation, will also be in attendance. Funds raised will be used to support the ongoing work of the Alliance, especially to enable more kidney donors to travel to the recipient’s transplant center.

As of October 1, 2008, more than 77,000 patients were awaiting a kidney transplant in the US – more than 2,200 in Ohio alone. In 2007, 16,626 kidney transplants were performed, and of those, 6,039 were from living donors. On average, 17 people die every day due to a lack of donated organs (12 due to lack of a kidney transplant). Kidney paired donation has the potential to provide transplants for up to an additional 3,000 people per year. Living donor kidneys last, on average, twice as long as deceased donor kidneys. Advancing APD’s mission of increasing paired donation would save thousands of lives annually.

The Alliance for Paired Donation is headquartered in Toledo, Ohio. A 501(c)3 organization, APD’s mission is to save lives by significantly shortening the waiting time for kidney patients through paired donation. In its first eighteen months of operation, the Alliance for Paired Donation facilitated 23 paired exchange transplants; more than half of these were due to altruistic donors. Learn more about the program by visiting [www.paireddonation.org](http://www.paireddonation.org) or by

calling 419-866-5505. Tickets to the dinner and silent auction are available in advance; to purchase, please call 419-360-7445 or go to [www.paireddonation.org](http://www.paireddonation.org).

### Media Interviews

Donors and recipients will be available for interviews on the afternoon of Saturday, October 18; to arrange an interview with Mr. Jones, Mr. Armstrong, or any of the other donors/recipients who will be attending, please call Laurie Reece at 512-961-6199.

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