

# ALLIANCE FOR PAIRED KIDNEY DONATION

## ORGAN DONATION ADVOCATE RECEIVES GIFT OF LIFE

NOVEMBER 25, 2019

"I am absolutely overwhelmed by the generosity and sacrifice that two people I didn't know [before now] are having on my life. I just hope and pray that I will live every day from tomorrow forward worthy of the sacrifice they are making for me. My life has changed forever because of this entire journey and the people in it. This journey has brought me so much closer to my faith and relationship with God, and I am eternally grateful."

*Bethany has severe PKD (polycystic kidney disease); this transplant saved her life.*



PICTURED: ALTRUISTIC DONOR TERA BIEGLOW AND HER HUSBAND JOHN, BETHANY AND FAMILY WITH SURGEON DR. REES AND APKD COORDINATOR SUSAN REES.

### DEC. 2019 APKD IN THE NEWS

**"I will never understand how a person could decide to lay down their life for someone they don't know, but I surely hope that if the roles were reversed I would do the same for them."** -Bethany Liedel, recipient of kidney from altruistic donor



One of our partner researchers at MIT, Nikhil Agarwal

#### EXCERPT FROM A MEDICAL XPRESS ARTICLE WRITTEN BY MIT'S BY PETER DIZIKES:

From within the walls of MIT's Building E52, where economics equations litter the whiteboards, Agarwal's work has now leapt out to the medical establishment. In the last year, a new method he and some colleagues formulated for a more efficient kidney-donation system has been approved for implementation by the Alliance for Paired Donation, the second-largest platform for such transplants in the U.S.

"It's particularly exciting," says Agarwal, who is low-key about his accomplishments but allows that he is thrilled to see his work having a tangible effect. Currently there are about 800 kidney exchange transplants in the U.S. annually; by Agarwal's estimation, a more efficient exchange market could increase that number by 30 to 60 percent. READ MORE: <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2019-11-optimizing-kidney-donation-money.html> FROM MEDICALXPRESS.COM

### DONOR PROFILE

#### STILL ONE OF OUR FAVORITE STORIES:

Nine years ago Deb Shearer made a big decision with even bigger effects: she donated her kidney as an altruistic donor. This single, selfless decision paved the way for six life-saving, living-donor kidney transplants to be performed. Nearly a decade later, all members of this exchange are thriving and healthy. "Best decision I ever made," says Deb. "Always I'm so honored that our story has been shared by Parade Magazine and it was all made possible by the Alliance for Paired Kidney Donation! I'm so thankful that everyone in the chain (which feels like family to me) is still healthy!"



wishing you happy holidays & a great new year!

In need of coordinator help? The APKD now offers assistance with uploading your compatible and incompatible pairs into the APKD database.

**Please contact Susan Rees at [susan.rees@paireddonation.org](mailto:susan.rees@paireddonation.org) for more information.**



*Saving lives one pair at a time*



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