

Dear Mary & Kyle;

Thank you again for your extreme generosity, in sharing those vital organs from your daughter so that so many others myself included could not only continue to survive but have a markedly improvement the quality of life itself. Many of us who were in a similar situation, who are faced with a slow insidious disease, do not realize how much of life we had lost before our surgery. Yes the two to three or four years prior to the transplant we think we know that we are getting sicker & sicker, taking more meds & going through more procedures just trying to stay alive, hoping for the ultimate chance and gift of life. Once being blessed with such magnanimous gift, you immediately feel better.

In fact once you are discharged from the hospital and settle in at home, actively starting your recovery process, every day brings you positive feelings about how lucky you are & how good you feel. Now you realize how much your body & mind compensated all those years before the surgery as life became a smaller & smaller circle. The liver is responsible for over 250 bodily functions many of which we are not aware. For me besides feeling much more energetic with a positive outlook on life, little things like brushing my teeth without bleeding the same for blowing my nose, my swollen feet & stomach are gone, my skin color is pink again, the texture of my skin is no longer dry scaly with frequent ~~rashes~~ rashes, and it is good to enjoy food.

With regard to Kelly's food likes and dislikes we do have some similarities. I do use too much ketchup or too many things. Some of my other likes include spaghetti, mac-n-cheese, artichokes and Caesar Salad is good. Other than cashews & walnuts in bakery products, I don't like nuts. However, I do love garden fresh tomatoes and will only eat them in August & September each year.

I am sorry, I can not remember or identify a butterfly experience. However the rear yard has a butterfly bush & two longwood blues so there are many butterflies & honey bees many days in late summer into the fall.

Today is approximately 507 days for me and I continue to count each one because they are all precious & a gift. Over the past 10-11 years donor families ~~of~~ like yourselves, have contributed to extending & →

improving the lives of over 1200 people just at the hospital where I was transplanted. The program is second to none.

All of this would not be possible without your thoughtfulness

God Bless You,

Bill