

Theresa Marie Laffin, 22, was diagnosed with Goodpasture's Syndrome twelve years ago at the age of ten, an autoimmune disorder involving the progressive decrease of the kidneys' ability to function properly. "I started to feel really sick and have flu-like symptoms, stomach aches, and didn't know what was happening," explains Theresa Marie. She was sent to the IWK in kidney failure. Following her diagnosis of Goodpasture's Syndrome, she immediately began dialysis and plasmapheresis treatments, as well as chemotherapy. She was on a list for a transplant for about four months, until October 2000, when Theresa Marie was the recipient of a new kidney. Over the course of a number of days, Laffin slowly recovered and started to feel better.

Her transplant was a success despite a few scary moments. "I was extremely happy to have received a new kidney", said Laffin. "After being sick for so long, I just wanted to feel better and put my time spent in the hospital behind me so I could look forward to living a more normal life and being back with my friends and family." Laffin and her parents are thankful to have overcome the difficult and trying times during her sickness but more importantly receiving a new lease on life from a stranger. It wasn't long following Laffin's transplant that the entire family became involved with the Cape Breton Chapter of the Kidney Foundation. "I became involved with the Kidney Foundation because I wanted to do whatever I

I now have a second chance at life, because of Organ & Tissue Donation.

- Theresa Marie Laffin, 22

could to assist the Foundation's efforts in continued kidney disease research, and education", said Laffin.

Theresa Marie is currently in her 3rd year of studies at NSCC Marconi Campus. Theresa Marie remains on transplant anti-rejection medications, and she'll continue to take these drugs for the rest of her life. She also continues to go to the renal clinic for routine checkups and blood work.



THE KIDNEY FOUNDATION OF CANADA

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the national volunteer organization committed to reducing the burden of kidney disease through: funding and stimulating innovative research; providing education and support; promoting access to high quality healthcare; and increasing public awareness and commitment to advancing kidney health and organ donation.

FACTS ABOUT KIDNEY DISEASE

- There is no cure for kidney disease.
- Kidney disease ranks 6th among diseases causing death in Canada, and can strike anyone at any age.
- Every day an average of 15 Canadians learn that their kidneys are failing. If kidney failure is not treated, people will die within days or weeks.
- More than 30,000 Canadians suffer from kidney failure and require dialysis or a kidney transplant to survive, but it is estimated that an additional 1.9 million have chronic kidney disease and don't know it.
- Kidneys are the most commonly transplanted organs in the world today.
- Canada's organ donation rate is among the lowest if all developed countries.

For more information, visit www.kidney.ca/ns

— The Gift of Life — WALK



ABOUT THE WALK

The Gift of Life Walk takes place annually in the Fall in communities across Canada. It is fun, family-oriented event designed for people of all ages and levels of fitness. Funds raised from the walk will support our Organ Donor Awareness Program.

A kidney transplant is the best possible improvement to the health and quality of life for many living with kidney disease. Walk, jog or run in support of The Kidney Foundation of Canada.

FUNDRAISE ONLINE

Increase your walk pledges online at:

kidney.ca/ns



PLEDGE FORM

Name _____ Company _____
 Address _____ City _____
 Province _____ Postal Code _____ E-mail _____

Full Name <i>(Please print clearly; include postal code)</i>	Mailing & e-mail address	Amount Pledged	Amount Collected	Receipt (Y/N)
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				
7.				
8.				
9.				
10.				
11.				
12.				
13.				
14.				
15.				
16.				
17.				
18.				
19.				
20.				

Total **Total**

PLEASE NOTE
 Cheques can be made payable to The Kidney Foundation of Canada. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$10 or more or upon request. Complete name, address and postal code must be provided to issue tax receipts. Pledges should be remitted on or before the day of the walk.

PRIVACY STATEMENT
 Information collected on this form is for the sole use of The Kidney Foundation of Canada, Nova Scotia Branch. Pledge information will be used for tax receipt purposes only, and will not be shared with other organizations. In the future, we may contact you regarding upcoming fundraising events.