



BRENDA'S STORY

I was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes at the age of 12. After being diagnosed, my teenage years were hard and I remember being in the hospital a lot.

As time went on and I accepted the fact that this was life and I would have to deal with it, my control was better and I lived a fairly normal life.

Eight years after adopting two beautiful boys I learned that my kidneys were failing quickly. In February of 2007, I was started on dialysis, going three days a week for four hours a day to have my blood filtered.

I knew that this was not the life choice for me, as I probably wouldn't get to see my children graduate, get married or have children of their own.

I contacted the UW Health Transplant program at the request of my nephrologist. I went through testing

“Without a transplant...I probably wouldn't get to see my children graduate, get married or have children of their own.”

and met the criteria for the waiting list at the UW Hospital for a kidney/pancreas transplant.

After meeting with Dr. Jon Odorico, I was encouraged by my options and his calming demeanor. He was confident that he could help me.

I waited patiently for the call. I was at the top of many prayer lists and God answered those prayers in April 2007.

Three months later I was no longer a diabetic and I had a functioning kidney, a new lease on life and nothing short of a miracle in my mind!

I have been a patient in a lot of different hospitals and clinics through the years and I will forever be grateful to UW Hospital and Clinics for their care and treatment.

I have never had a more extraordinary experience as a patient in my entire life. The hospital and clinic staff truly cares and wants to see you succeed. I now have a new lease on life and hopefully, will see my children graduate, get married and someday have grandchildren to enjoy!

If you choose to become a donor:

- Answer “yes” to the organ donor question on your driver’s license renewal application.
- Sign your license or ID card.
- **Tell your family** about your decision, to help ensure your wishes are honored.

For more information on organ donation, visit uwhcopo.org.



UWHealth

University of Wisconsin
Organ Procurement Organization
uwhcopo.org