



Dear Transplant Nurse,

On Halloween of 1979 I became very, very sick. I didn't feel better the next day so I was taken to the Emergency Room. It was suggested that I had the Flu but, we wanted a second opinion. Needless to say, we went to the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. At the university it was determined that in fact my appendix had ruptured. I was admitted and went to surgery asap. It was soon after this surgery that my remaining kidney started to fail. (One of my native kidneys was removed before the age of ten). My parents were told that I would most likely need a kidney transplant when I entered puberty.

While I was still in the hospital I was put on dialysis. I don't remember any of this because I was so very sick. Before I was dismissed from the hospital I was scheduled to be back in three weeks for home dialysis training. We were getting prepared to do this but, we had to get through a large family Christmas first.

On the evening of December, 25 1979 my whole family (except my oldest sister) were attending Midnight Mass. When we arrived home there was a large note on the kitchen cabinet that read, "Call Iowa City ASAP"!! My parents called right away! The news was the best Christmas gift we had been waiting for, the coordinator at the university said that there was a kidney available; were we interested? We called our relatives, had a very early Christmas Morning. Later that morning I was at the university receiving my first kidney transplant.

After five very healthy years the kidney rejected. I was at the University of Iowa because of kidney related health concerns. On the morning of December, 13 1984 a coordinator walked into my room and said that there was a kidney available. All I remember about that morning was asking if I should call my parents, and the coordinator replying that she would do it.

It has been 24 years since I received my second kidney transplant (knock on wood). I would like to express my gratefulness and sincere thanks to all the great Transplant Nurses that walked into and out of my life over all those years.

Keep up the great work!!

*Jon Kiser*

