A Review of
\textit{Operation Breathe Easy} \\
Joan Powers (illustrations by Michelle Caudle) (2016)

Reviewed by Jim Gleason, heart recipient

Imagine how daunting it must be for anyone facing an organ transplant, but how much more so if that person is a young child. Joan Powers in her children’s book makes the whole experience understandable for the young mind, especially if this unique resource is used with a knowing adult helping them to read Tommy’s story of facing and living successfully through a lifesaving lung transplant.

Beautifully illustrated, Tommy is just a normal kid who finds himself getting sick and needing new lungs. The story describes in child friendly language each phase of that difficult process from the early stages through doctor’s visits and eventual hospitalization. The operation itself and early recovery is told in a very positive and encouraging way that any child can relate to, even if they themselves are not facing a transplant, rather they may need to understand from the perspective of another family member or friend undergoing transplant.

\textit{Operation Breathe Easy} fills a void in transplant literature where there are too few books that address this difficult subject at a level a child can understand and relate to in their own youthful lives. The colorful illustrations are child drawing friendly, adding to the message in supporting the words with pictures children so enjoy. As the author describes in summary: “Tommy is going through something very different than his friends but he is just a regular kid and makes lots of new friends along the way.” What child can’t relate to that? And that simplicity is the power behind this beautiful work of storytelling and art.

The book would be the perfect gift from family or friends who have a child facing transplant or even a hospital stay. Ideally hospital pediatric units should have this book in supply to give to young patients when they arrive for clinic visits or hospitalization.

\textbf{Note:} \textit{Operation Breathe Easy} is available in soft cover and Kindle editions at \url{Amazon.com}.

***********************************************************************

\textbf{Brief bio:}
Jim Gleason, receiving his own heart transplant Oct. ’94, retired after 37 years with Unisys Corporation in 2005, is a volunteer with The Gift of Life Donor Program, NKF and UNOS as well as a nationally recognized speaker and author. His own book, \textit{A Gift from the Heart}, is offered free in thanks to his donor family and can be obtained online at \url{http://gleasonjim.com} or on CD by contacting him at GleasonJim@aol.com.