

FRANCEE FULLER: 1 OF 100,000 AMERICANS IN NEED OF A KIDNEY TRANPLANT

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You may know me as a seasoned professional, a Past President (and founding member) of CREW Lehigh Valley, a wife and mother, and a volunteer passionate about many causes.

But I have recently assumed an additional identity----a person with Stage 5 kidney disease, just one among the 100,000 people across the nation in need of a kidney transplant. I have polycystic kidney disease, an inherited trait that has damaged kidney function to the extent that a transplant is required for continued good health.

My good news is, I have been evaluated by the Transplant Center of the Lehigh Valley at Lehigh Valley Health Network and have been accepted into the program. The bad news is the local wait for a cadaver kidney is five years. In 2019, 19 approved candidates like me died while waiting for their transplant.

Like the people I've had the privilege of working with on various committees and projects, my nature is to step up and help---but not to ask for help. Well,I'm asking for help---for you to spread the understanding of the needs of people like me. Living donors are the best chance for long term survival. We've all read stories about altruistic people who have stepped forward in similar situations. Here's a recent one from the Washington Post.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2020/09/03/kidney-transplant/>

Facts from the Transplant Center of the Lehigh Valley at Lehigh Valley Health Network

- People need just one kidney for a long & healthy life
- Donors do not need to be relatives or the same blood type
- Potential donors receive thorough health examinations provided without cost. Anyone who opts to proceed with the donation is not billed for surgery or post-operative care.
- Only about 10% of those evaluated are accepted as donors.
- More information: 610-402-8506 Option 5