

## BLAKE IS IN NEED OF A LIVING KIDNEY DONOR

### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DONATING?

If so, we want to thank you! We know this is a big "ask." We also know you may have questions and possibly concerns. We're sharing this flyer in the hope that we can provide you with the information you need to make an informed decision.

*Know that even thinking about being Blake's living kidney donor is a courageous step and we are grateful for you!*

### UPDATES

When Blake was just 6 years old, he was diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes and in February of 2020, Blake learned his kidney was not working and functioning at just 17%. Even with major changes to his diet, his kidney disease progressed. In October of 2022, he made the tough choice to go on dialysis. Being on dialysis is not ideal, which is why Blake plans to move forward with kidney transplant surgery and is on the waiting list for deceased donation.

### WHY A LIVING DONOR?

Waiting 3-5 years for a kidney from a deceased donor is not the best path forward for Blake. With a living donor, Blake can get his kidney transplant sooner! Research has shown that when patients receive a kidney from a living donor, the outcome is generally better. Living kidney donation is also ideal because kidneys from living donors last longer and there is a lower chance Blake's immune system will attack his new kidney (rejection).



### ARE YOU INTERESTED IN DONATING?

#### YES! I'M INTERESTED

If you are interested in being Blake's living donor, visit [yourgiftworks.com/blakem](https://yourgiftworks.com/blakem) and complete the short contact form. A donor advocate will reach out to you within one business day to answer any questions you may have and will guide you through the next steps in the process.

#### YES! BUT I HAVE QUESTIONS & CONCERNS

Having questions is normal! We have a great resource available. Please visit [Blake's kidney website](#) and complete the contact form. A donor advocate named Laurie will reach out to you. Laurie is a living kidney donor who can answer any non-medical questions you may have, guide you through the process, and connect you to great resources.

#### NO, BUT I WANT TO HELP

Thank you! The best way you can help is by [following Blake's Facebook page](#) and sharing posts from his page as much as possible. The more shares we get, the more people we can reach, and the better chance we will have of finding Blake's courageous donor.

# COMMON QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## WAS BLAKE'S FAMILY TESTED?

Most of Blake's family cannot donate for health reasons. His son, Robert, started the process, but his daughter became Type 1. After a long discussion it was decided it best that he saved his kidney for her. In some cases, the best living donor is one who is not a family member, even when family members do step forward to donate.

## DO I NEED INSURANCE TO DONATE?

Yes, the hospital requires that you have insurance to be considered as a living donor in the event an unknown health issue comes up for the donor.

## WHAT ABOUT MY EXPENSES?

While Blake's insurance covers all costs related to the donation (for Blake and the donor), there are expenses like travel, meals, and lost wages that Blake can legally reimburse you for. There are also additional resources available to ensure you are not paying for anything out of pocket. We can provide more information on those resources.

## WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS TO DONATE?

The following are pre-qualification requirements for living donation: must be between the age of 18-69 years old, must be healthy and free of major health problems such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity (BMI of 37 or less), and must be mentally and emotionally healthy.

## HOW LONG IS THE RECOVERY PROCESS?

Living kidney donors are often able to return to work within 2 weeks, and fully heal within 6-8 weeks. After surgery, the donor's remaining kidney will also grow in size and function, allowing them to live normal life with just one kidney.

## I HAVE NON-MEDICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT BECOMING A DONOR?

[Visit Blake's kidney website](#) and complete the contact form. Within 1 business day, a donor advocate named Laurie will reach out to you. This is an excellent opportunity to speak with someone who has already donated a kidney and can not only answer your non-medical questions, but share more about their experience as a donor. If you have medical questions, we can connect you to the appropriate team member at the University of Utah Health.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF BLAKE DOES NOT FIND A LIVING KIDNEY DONOR?

The ideal outcome for Blake is to find a living donor. He has already battled so much with his Type 1 Diabetes that being on the kidney transplant waiting list for 3-5 years is simply not ideal. Long-term dialysis is also not ideal as it can lead to a variety of complications such as low blood pressure, injection site infection, and blood clots.



## WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO HELP?

1. Share Blake's story with those you know. Send them the [link to his website](#) or share this brochure.
2. Follow [Blake's Kidney Page on Facebook](#). This page will educate interested donors and allow us to reach more people. You can help by sharing Blake's Facebook page with your family and friends. Doing so will make a huge difference.
3. "Like" and "Share" the posts on [Blake's Facebook page](#). The more the posts are shared, the more people we will reach, and the better chance we will have of finding Blake's living kidney donor.

**Please know that we are so grateful for your support. We appreciate your help, prayers, and kind words as Blake continues his transplant journey.**