

“Organ donors can save up to eight lives. “ I didn't think I would be one of those eight lives for one organ donor. And I was scared that I was gonna be one of the ‘22 people who die every day due to waiting for an organ .” But I wasn't and let me share my story so you can understand why everyone should be an organ donor.

At age 9 I had a mass on my liver pushing on my stomach which made me get sick every other day . Which led me to going to the E.R and being transferred to a children's hospital in D.C .The next day I went into emergency surgery and they ended up removing the grapefruit size mass off my liver . Since that day most of my life has been hospitals and doctors and still never feeling normal .

Age 15 my sophomore year of high school one night on a friday my mom was out shopping while my dad was still at work . I was playing on my computer after just finishing homework for monday . Then a shooting pain came up my side so I decided to stand up but that made it worse . The pain went from my hip to my lower back and it felt as what I imagined getting shot felt like .This led me to getting in the bath and taking a nice hot bath hoping that would help the pain subside . Once I got in the tub it got worse and worse to the point where I thought I wasn't going to be able to get out of the tub .

My mom was on her way home after I called her telling her I might be calling an ambulance and they may have to get me out of the bathroom . Time went by and the pain grew. I stayed on the phone with my best friend Paige just in case I needed to call a rescue . My mom finally arrived and helped me out of the bathroom and down the stairs to the car . I had to walk crouched down. That was the only way to stand or move without it getting worse by any movement .

Eventually my mother got home and took me to the emergency room which led to many different tests.By the end of the night they let me go home due to finding out nothing other then my liver enzymes were elevated .The next few days went by and I went to see my primary care doctor and he told us to go to the doctor that did my last liver surgery. He ended up telling us he didn't know what it was other than he knew it wasn't what we originally thought due to it coming back .

Which led me to go to Georgetown University hospital. I remember Dr.Fishbein coming into the room .He had a stern look on his face and when he walked through that door it felt like my whole world stopped and blew up right in front of my eyes. He sat down and started explaining what happened that night .Once he said the words “the mass on her liver burst that night and internally bled but stopped itself.”I knew that I was gonna need some sort of surgery and there was gonna be a journey to it .

After that day it was never the same. My mind never stopped racing. I developed severe insomnia .I couldn't focus in school or even a simple small conversation with anyone. My

memory was just not there anymore . At night I would listen to music and cry constantly thinking I wasn't gonna survive to the surgery or through the surgery. On March 6th 2022 my mom got the call at 4am to be at the hospital in 30 minutes .I remember her waking me up yelling hysterical and running up and down the hallway like a headless chicken . It was a long night and day waiting for the organ to be transported to the hospital .

Once surgery happened and I woke up in my hospital bed thinking I was not in my own body. I felt like someone just replaced everything in my body and I felt like I could run a mile right away .I was out within a week when they thought I would be in the hospital for a month but I was determined to get home . I will say my boyfriend was right by my side this whole journey and without him I don't think I would have made it through the surgery due to my spirit being so low .

Since I got my transplant I have never once felt like I felt every day of my life before .Which is eye opening because to me that was my normal and here I am feeling what is actually normal . I am now about to graduate high school and live out my dreams all thanks to my organ donor saving my life .

Become an organ donor today and choose to save lives like mine.

Citations

Fast facts about organ donation. Donate Life California. (n.d.). Retrieved April 13, 2023, from <https://donatelifecalifornia.org/education/faqs/fast-facts-about-organ-donation/>

Organ donation statistics. (n.d.). Retrieved April 13, 2023, from <https://www.organdonor.gov/learn/organ-donation-statistics>