

There are over 2,000 Veterans awaiting a kidney transplant in the United States.

The average wait for a kidney from a deceased donor is 5 years long. *Veterans are dying while waiting for a kidney.*

- Living kidney donors would enable Veterans to bypass this long wait.
- Living Kidney Donation is safe for those who are medically cleared.
- Living Kidney donors live normal lives with one kidney and can save a Veteran's life with their other!

We know many will “Step Up” as donors if they can directly help a Veteran in need. Through DOVE – they now can!

## Message from DOVE Founder



Sharyn Kreitzer, DOVE founder and living kidney donor, with donor advocates and veterans raising awareness!

*“I am dedicated to giving back to those who served our country. Finding and matching living kidney donors with Veterans will save Veterans’ lives as well as help the overall transplant community by elevating awareness about organ donation, getting people off the long wait list, and contributing to transplant chains. Together, as communities, we can and will make a huge difference.”*



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**Combined Federal Campaign**  
**Charity #84662**

DOVE is a 501c3 organization founded by experienced and dedicated transplant professionals. DOVE seeks to improve access to living kidney transplantation for veterans by facilitating kidney donor campaigns and providing education, advocacy and support to all donors.

## Donor Outreach for Veterans, Corps. (DOVE Transplant)

INCREASING ACCESS TO LIVING KIDNEY  
DONOR TRANSPLANTATION FOR VETERANS



Amanda Houlton, kidney donor, pictured with her recipient, David Hardaway, Ret. Army Lieutenant Colonel, who served for 23 years.

*“I donated in honor of my brother, a Veteran, who loved his country. This experience changed my life for the better.” – Amanda*

*“Amanda saved my life. She is my angel and now will always be a part of my family.” –David*



LIVING KIDNEY DONATION FOR VETERANS

**Combined Federal Campaign Charity**  
**#84662**

**Through both individual and community outreach campaigns, DOVE will Find, Educate and Match prospective donors to Veterans who are active "status 1" on the national (UNOS)wait list.**

Many DOVE donors are anonymous. However, directed donors, such as friends and family members, are also entitled to the full support and resources provided by DOVE.

DOVE encourages all donors to consider participation in kidney paired exchanges in order to expand the donor pool. This also enables the Veteran to find an optimal match. There are several national paired exchange programs. Transplant centers will determine if paired exchange is an option and discuss with eligible donors.

## **Who Can Be a Living Kidney Donor?**

**Research confirms that donating a kidney does not have an adverse effect on future health of the donor in any way.**

All donors undergo extensive testing by a specialized, interdisciplinary Donor Transplant Team to ensure that donors can safely recover from elective surgery and live a normal life with their remaining kidney.

There are some conditions that can screen out a donor's candidacy through an initial health screening:

- Obesity (BMI >35)
- Under 18 or over 70 \*(some centers do not have age limit)
- Medical problems such as diabetes, uncontrolled high blood pressure, cancer, kidney and heart disease
- Psychological problems such as unstable mental illness, active substance abuse

**All testing and medical care is covered by the Veteran's transplant center. Costs related to travel, lost wages, childcare can be covered by DOVE or other available transplant funds such as The National Living Donor Assistance Center (NLDAC).**

**To learn more about kidney donation:  
Info@dovetransplant.org or call 551-449-8319.**

## **For Veteran Recipients**

Many Veterans—who have already sacrificed so much for others—would be the first to offer to donate but are unwilling to ask in return.

Many transplant centers utilize "Donor Champion" programs and guide family and friends on how to run donor outreach campaigns.

DOVE is taking this successful concept a step further by serving as a Veteran's donor champion and also helping to screen, educate and guide the donors throughout the process.

This level of support keeps donors engaged and more likely to complete evaluation and undergo donation.

**"I am proud to be the first DOVE donor and hope to inspire others to follow."**

Jon Taylor (Combat Vet/Medic), donated his kidney at St. David's Medical Center in Austin, Texas. This helped set up a chain of transplants that ultimately led to fellow Veteran, Chief Bennie, pictured at far right with his wife, receiving his kidney transplant at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

Pictured below, Lindsay Gutierrez, an altruistic kidney donor, who first learned about DOVE in a Military Times advertisement.



If you are a Veteran and would like to register with DOVE, you must:

- Be cleared and actively listed at a transplant center \* We can work with any US Transplant Center
- Be able to confirm your service history (DD214)

Please contact: [info@dovetransplant.org](mailto:info@dovetransplant.org)

