

There are nearly 2,000 Veterans awaiting transplant at a VA or Military Transplant Center in the U.S. (unos.org)  
There are countless more who are listed at private sector transplant centers.

The average wait for a kidney from a deceased donor is 6 to 8 years.  
*Veterans are dying while waiting for a kidney.*

We can help improve the length and quality of Veterans' lives by finding them living kidney donors.

We know the vast and tight network of Veterans and the goodwill of the larger community of Americans would "Step Up" as donors if they knew how.

## Message from DOVE Founder

*"I am dedicated to giving back in some way to those who served our country, including my father and my grandfather. 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, we can and will make a huge difference."*



Sharyn Kreitzer, DOVE founder, with her two children

Cover photo credit: Cherie Cullen



[BeADoveDonor@dovetransplant.org](mailto:BeADoveDonor@dovetransplant.org)  
[WWW.DOVETRANSPLANT.ORG](http://WWW.DOVETRANSPLANT.ORG)



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

INCREASING ACCESS TO LIVING KIDNEY DONATION FOR VETERANS IN NEED



**"I feel like I got so much out of donating. I now take even better care of myself."**

I gave a piece of me that I didn't need to someone special who did. Scott is back to making us laugh. His spirit has returned and that feels good to me."

Ashley Brokop, Air Force Veteran & Kidney Donor

Pictured with Scott Reed, Air Force Veteran & Kidney Recipient



## Through both individual and community outreach campaigns, DOVE will Find, Screen, Educate and then Match prospective donors to Veterans.

When possible, DOVE will work with national paired registries to enable potential donors to help start donor chains. The benefits of being chain starters are:

1. Donors receive a “payback” kidney that can be matched with a Veteran at any transplant center in the U.S.
2. Donors can be evaluated and undergo surgery at a center close to their home.
3. Donors help complete multiple transplants and therefore their one kidney will save many lives.

## 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 insurance or the transplant center.**

Costs related to travel, lost wages, childcare can be covered via many different resources—including DOVE.

Organ donation now qualifies for FMLA.

To learn more about kidney donation, please contact:  
[BeADoveDonor@dovetransplant.org](mailto:BeADoveDonor@dovetransplant.org)

## 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.

DOVE is fortunate that the *Military Times* has donated ad space throughout the year in its publications. Pictured below is a sample DOVE campaign.



If you are a recipient and would like to have DOVE be your champion, you must:

- Be listed at a transplant center
- Be able to confirm your service history

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

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

Jon Taylor (Combat Vet/Medic), pictured at right, donated his kidney in October 2020 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, undergoing transplant in April 2021 at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center in Bethesda, Maryland.

