

**From:** ContactUs@MatchingDonors.com <http://www.matchingdonors.com/life/index.cfm>

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**To:** fair@dc.rr.com

**Subject:** Press Release: Illinois Fire Captain Will Receive



Rodney & his daughter



Rodney & Lits

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Illinois Fire Captain Will Receive A Life Saving Kidney Transplant From A Complete Stranger He Met On The Internet. Now that Stranger's Daughter Will Also Be Giving A Kidney To A Complete Stranger She Met On The Internet.**

**Like Mother Like Daughter**

*Site Endorsed by Various Health Officials, Ethicists and Doctors across the Country*

**Canton- MA, News Release – (May 18, 2010)**

Nineteen people die everyday in the United States waiting for an organ transplant; Rodney Fleming knew that; he has been on that waiting list for seven years; he prayed he would not be in that statistic. Now because of a complete stranger he met through MatchingDonors.com he will get his much needed kidney transplant.

"It's really a life-changing event," said Rodney Fleming of Sullivan, Illinois. Neither of his kidneys works so he has to hook up to a dialysis machine every night for about 12 hours. "I said look at this guy," said Lita Tomas of Oak Brook when she saw his profile on MatchingDonors.com. "He's a grandparent just like me and here he's stuck at home." "He can't go on vacation with the grand-kids," she added. "He can't do things like everybody else is doing." "He's really kind of chained to his house." Tomas is helping him break free; she found Fleming on MatchingDonors.com. Her daughter gave her the idea to visit MatchingDonors.com and now her daughter is on MatchingDonors.com looking to donate one of her kidneys to a complete stranger.

For months Rodney frantically sought out family and friends to be living donors- none matched. He prayed everyday that someone would come along to help him. Then Rodney heard about MatchingDonors.com from a news article, and he signed up. MatchingDonors.com is the most

successful nonprofit organization that is finding living altruistic donors for patients needing transplants.

Rodney wrote on his MatchingDonors.com profile:

*I am a 58 yr. old male with a hereditary kidney disease that I lost my father to. I am a retired captain of the fire dept. and paramedic. I have 2 children that have given me 4 fabulous grandchildren.*

*I have been on a transplant list for 6 years after my first transplant failed after 10 years. I have spent most of my adult life saving other peoples lives and would have never given that time up if I wasn't forced to by the restraints of my dialysis.*

*Now I am hoping and praying that some one will be willing to save my life. I want nothing more than to be able to travel and spend lots of time with those 4 grandchildren that think grandpa is the greatest!*

*I have a disease called Alports syndrome which is hereditary. I have had 1 transplant that failed after 10 years. I am now on peritoneal dialysis which I do in my own home every night. I was forced to retire from my job as a paramedic and captain on the fire department due to failing health. I have 2 grown children and 4 grandchildren which all live with in just a few miles of me.*

*My father died from the disease and I have 2 siblings that both have inherited Alports also. Due to the hereditary factor none of my family may donate. I would love to travel now that I am retired but because of the nightly treatments and the fear of not being there when "THE CALL" comes in I stay close to home except for some day excursions to see the Cardinals play ball :). I have had a few friends and my minister tested as possible donors by no one has been a match. I am praying that thru this link I can find a match and a new life. Thank you, Rod*

Rodney and Lita had nothing in common and they were complete strangers, and they found each other on an Internet website – MatchingDonors.com and Lita decided she would offer to be the person to save his life.

When Lita put her profile on MatchingDonors.com she wrote: *I am a healthy non-smoker/drinker/drug grandmother, age 56. Retired Military excellent physical condition. Looking to make a difference in somebody's life that can't live without a transplant. My blood type is A+ I am willing to travel, I have insurance, I am not looking for financial gain, just trying to help.*

Within minutes after signing up on MatchingDonors.com Lita saw Rodney's profile and decided she would contact him to see if he was a match to her. Lita wrote to Rodney: *I signed up a minute ago to be a kidney donor, we have something in common, I have grand-children too! And my blood type is A+ how can we tell if we are compatible for a transplant? Lita Tomas.* That's all it took.

Through the miracle of the Internet the two complete strangers met on MatchingDonors.com and after testing Lita found out that she was a match for Rodney, and on May 20, 2010 Lita will save Rodney's life by donating her kidney to him at Barnes Jewish Hospital, St Louis, MO.

This will be the 123rd transplant surgery from a patient and altruistic donor that found each other on MatchingDonors.com.

MatchingDonors.com was launched in January of 2004 as an Internet service based in Massachusetts. Patients on transplant lists put their profiles on the website, and potential donors

browse the site for a life they want to help save. Donors are not compensated, since it is against the law to have any financial benefit from organ donation.

Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, one of the Web site founders, said "Patients are asked to pay a membership fee, but there is a sliding scale if they can't afford it." Many praise MatchingDonors.com as a creative, entrepreneurial response to this deadly disparity, and 100% of the money paid for patient memberships is applied to running the site.

Since the inception of MatchingDonors.com, directed living organ donations have increased to historic numbers. MatchingDonors.com is now the largest living donor database in the country.

"We believe that if more people were better educated on the ability to be a live organ donor, and we add in the personal communication between potential organ donors and patients needing an organ, the number of donors will increase and so will the probability of a patient receiving their much needed organ. We already have over 4,170 potential donors on our site waiting to find patients needing organs", said Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, MatchingDonors.com Medical Director. "MatchingDonors.com is the most comprehensive searching system available. Other organizations concentrate mainly on the passive anonymous portion of finding organ donors - leaving little or no communication between patients and potential donors".

Over the past six years MatchingDonors.com has made historic strides in saving the lives of people needing organ transplants, and increasing living organ donation in the United States. For the work we do at MatchingDonors.com we have won many awards and commendations from Congress and The President of The United States, but we do not currently receive any funds from government. MatchingDonors.com accomplishments include:

1. MatchingDonors.com is now the largest living donor database in the United States, with over 8, 099 potential donors registered on the website.
2. MatchingDonors.com is also now the largest living donor paired exchange database in the United States, with over 1,671 potential paired exchange donors registered on the website.
3. MatchingDonors.com now has over 500 patients with active profiles.
4. MatchingDonors.com has an extremely high success rate - most patient members that have been on the site for at least 30 days have been offered an organ by a potential donor.
5. At least 40 of our patient members have upcoming surgery dates with their donors found on MatchingDonors.com.
6. MatchingDonors.com can get over 1.5 million visits in a month.
7. New patients and potential donors sign up almost daily.
8. MatchingDonors.com is recommended and used by many doctors across the United States, including some of the most prestigious transplant surgeons and centers.

As of May 17, 2010, there are 107,393 patients waiting for an organ transplant in the United States. Yet, in 2006, according to the United Network for Organ Sharing, [www.UNOS.org](http://www.UNOS.org) a non-profit organization contracted with the US Department of Health, there were only 28,930 organ transplants performed in the United States. Every day, 19 people die while waiting for a transplant of a vital organ, such as a heart, liver, kidney, pancreas, or lung. This creates a national

crisis that has led even President Bush to publicly encourage private organizations to raise awareness of the important need for organ and tissue donors.

Currently, patients waiting for an organ donation are placed on a national waiting list through the United Network for Organ Sharing. A computer system matches patients to donor organs according to objective criteria such as blood and tissue type, immune status, medical urgency and time spent on the waiting list. This ranking system determines which patients are offered available organs. This process is extremely important in anyone's organ search, but now MatchingDonors.com offers a way to enhance the search with a more active approach.

MatchingDonors.com main objective is to search the world to find potential live donors for people in need of organ transplants. Patient members of MatchingDonors.com provide a personal biography as well as pictures of their choice to display on the website, which will create an interest in them and their life story. When patients in need of an organ transplant place themselves into MatchingDonors.com database, their information will be promoted on the website. MatchingDonors.com advertises and promotes its Web site in many different ways through extensive public relations networking to increase potential donor's viewing the site.

The personal connection MatchingDonors.com provides is key to finding a potential live donor. According to the National Kidney Foundation, "Nearly one out of four (23.4%) of 1000 people queried told pollsters that they would be "likely" to consider donating a kidney or a portion of their liver or lung to help save the life of someone they did not know." Many people feel more comfortable considering offering a live donation to someone they may have a connection to or a common bond.

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When patients provide their biography and open up personally, the potential for live donors to respond is increased. To help educate people about the option of live organ donation, MatchingDonors.com Web site provides extensive information regarding the safety and types of donations available.

MatchingDonors.com Medical Director, Dr. Jeremiah Lowney, is available for interviews for print, radio and television before and after the surgery. Please contact Doctor Lowney at 781-821-2204 to set up interviews. An NPR radio interview, ABC News NightLine Story, and New England Journal of Medicine Articles about MatchingDonors.com can be found at [www.MatchingDonors.com](http://www.MatchingDonors.com).

Both the patient and donor can be interviewed; their contact information can be obtained by calling MatchingDonors.com at 781-821-2204. Many of our patients and donors are willing to speak with the press. Contact information about our patients and donors may be obtained by calling MatchingDonors.com at 781-821-2204.

MatchingDonors.com is not an organ donor waiting list, and is not associated with any organ donor organization. It is a nonprofit venue where patients and potential donors can communicate and hopefully expedite a live donor agreeing to give a much-needed organ. MatchingDonors.com gives patients and potential donors the important communication tools to correspond with each other, but once the contact between the parties has been made, the road to transplant surgery is their own.

Based in Canton, Massachusetts, MatchingDonors.com is a nonprofit corporation with people based throughout the United States. Anyone interested in donating money to support MatchingDonors.com services can do so by calling Matchingdonors.com at 781-821-2204.

More information about the company is available at its corporate Web site,  
<http://www.MatchingDonors.com>.

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