

Jane is a mother of two. Her daughter is six, her son is four. Her husband is currently unemployed. They are all refugees. English is her second language and Jane is not her real name. But these things are the context, not the story. Jane needs a kidney or she is going to die.

Jane left her home, Baghdad, in 1996 and moved to Jordan. In 2001 she was married. Three years later her daughter was born. In 2006, Jane and her husband were working in sales as they awaited the arrival of their son. Her blood pressure rose dangerously high, a reminder of a prior health concern. With inflamed kidneys, she needed an early caesarian to save her life. Her son was born with asthma, underdeveloped lungs, and a hole in his heart.

The International Organization for Migration (IOM) helped Jane and her family comes to the United States in 2008. She had been born with small kidneys and was in the midst of a rapid decline in health. At forty one years old she arrived in Chicago, her left kidney functioning at 40% with no support from the right kidney. Since, the function of her left kidney has dropped to 27% and more recently 9%. Doctors have implanted a cimino fistula in her arm to facilitate dialysis, a treatment employed during advanced renal failure. Treatment impairs her ability to take care of her children and efforts to bring her mother here on a temporary visa to help have been largely ignored by the embassy.

Jane is currently on a donor waiting list. The estimated wait is 5-7 years. A five year wait, minimum. Five years during which she will endure painful treatment. Five years during which she will be too weak to care for her daughter, or her son, who requires breathing assistance from machines around the clock. Five years that she very possibly, will not see. Children and the elderly take priority on donor lists, Jane is neither of these things. Conceivably, she could be pushed down the list as priority patients apply. For Jane and her children, she is a priority patient. Five years is too long, but without assistance, the donation that could save Jane's life could come far too late.

Due to her insurance status (Jane is on medicaid) it often takes months for her to see a doctor. In order to get medical attention for her son, they must go to the emergency room. As of this month, Jane and her husband cannot pay their rent, household income consists entirely of \$600 in monthly food assistance for a family of four. Through no fault of her own, Jane is positioned fall through the cracks.

If we allow our system to fail Jane, we allow it to fail us all. We're asking for help, an immense gift. Life for Jane, a wife for a husband, a mother for two children. We're asking for any eligible donor to consider the immeasurable good that can be done by donating a kidney. Jane desperately wants to be well, raise her children, and go back to work.

There is no greater charity than to give of oneself and no greater gift than that of life. We are looking for an eligible donor with O positive blood. If you know someone who is willing to give or are an eligible donor yourself, please contact:

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