

**Mayo Clinic Medical Edge**

**K52 Transplant Friends**

December 2010

Intro: This is a story about life, love and selfless giving. It's a story about two women who share more than just friendship. They share the gift of life.

**Video**

**Audio**

<b>Total running time 1:33</b>	MELISSA BLEVINS RUNS THE SOLID ORGAN TRANSPLANT UNIT AT MAYO CLINIC IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA. EVERY DAY SHE HEARS ABOUT PEOPLE WHO DIE BECAUSE NO DONOR ORGANS WERE AVAILABLE. AND THE DAY SHE SAW TWO LITTLE CHILDREN DIE FOR THAT REASON, HER LIFE CHANGED FOREVER.
<b>Melissa Blevins</b>	IT STRUCK ME THAT NIGHT THAT BOTH OF THOSE DEATHS WERE SO UNNECESSARY. AND IT REALLY TURNED A CORNER FOR ME, AND I THOUGHT WE'VE GOT TO DO MORE. I'VE GOT TO DO MORE. AND THEN I MET RISA.
<b>Risa Simon Needed kidney transplant</b>	I HAD POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE, ALSO KNOWN AS PKD.
	RISA WAS ON THE WAITING LIST FOR A KIDNEY TRANSPLANT. MELISSA VOLUNTEERED TO GIVE RISA ONE OF HERS.

<b>Risa Simon</b>	WE MATCHED AS CLOSE AS SISTERS.
	IN SIMULTANEOUS OPERATIONS, THE MAYO TRANSPLANT TEAM REMOVED BOTH OF RISA'S DAMAGED KIDNEYS AND ONE OF MELISSA'S HEALTHY ONES. THEN THEY TRANSPLANTED IT INTO RISA.
<b>Risa Simon</b>	NOT ONLY DID SHE GIVE ME A NEW KIDNEY, BUT SHE ALLOWED ME TO GIVE SOMEONE ELSE MY PLACE IN LINE.
<b>Melissa Blevins</b>	SHE CALLS HER KIDNEY, THE ONE THAT I DONATED, MAK. THAT'S AN ACRONYM FOR MELISSA'S AMAZING KIDNEY.
<b>Risa Simon</b>	I'M OVERWHELMED BY HER SPIRIT, HER SELFLESSNESS, HER DESIRE TO NOT ONLY BE PASSIONATE ABOUT SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT LIVING DONATION, BUT TO BE WALKING THE TALK.
	GIVING UP A KIDNEY SO THAT OTHERS MAY HAVE LIFE.
	FOR MEDICAL EDGE, I'M VIVIEN WILLIAMS.

Anchor tag:

Giving up a kidney is not risk-free. Donors go through an operation and need to be checked out thoroughly beforehand to make sure they're healthy.

At any given time there are up to 86-thousand people worldwide waiting for a donor organ. You can make a difference by being an organ donor.

For more information, visit our website at ... [STATIONS: Per the licensing agreement, please provide a link from your station's website to <http://www.MayoClinic.org> or voice tag "MayoClinic.org" for more information.]