

Joey's story continued..

Besides kidney failure, Alport Syndrome can cause some hearing loss, which I have lost quite a bit of hearing, and it can hinder your growth rate. The doctors were almost certain that I would never be as tall as my dad at 6'2". At the very most they were predicting 5'8", but even that sounded good to me at age 13 and being just under 5 feet tall. I'm very proud to say that 4 years 8 months later, at the age of 18 and a senior in high school, I am now 6'3" tall and growing strong. Since transplant I have enjoyed playing soccer, baseball and basketball. I work part time and am truly enjoying life.



Early detection was important or I could have died and my parents would have never known what was wrong. We thank the Foundation for all the information they have on their website about kidney disease. It answered a lot of questions for my family which is so important when you are fighting a horrible disease.

There are many faces of kidney disease. Are you one of the faces? Is someone you know affected by kidney disease?

The leading causes of kidney disease are diabetes and high blood pressure.	One in nine American Adults has kidney disease and half don't even know it.
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I was 15 years old (one year after transplant) when I had my first **Kidney Camp experience sponsored and funded by the Foundation**. I'm an introvert and it was a real stretch for me to leave home and family for five whole days! I have been attending yearly every since and it honestly is the best vacation a kid could ever ask for and you never want it to end!!! I've really connected with all the other kids at camp and have become great friends with several of them and continue that friendship yet today. It was great to be in a place with others kids who have experienced some of the same things I have.

I've attended Kidney Camp four years in a row and now that I am 18 years of age it's time to step aside and let other younger children enjoy all the fun that Kidney Camp provides to kids fighting kidney disease. I plan to go as a Kidney Camp Volunteer to assist all the other volunteers in putting on an outstanding camp for the younger kids. For someone that is young and has had to experience so much pain and suffering at a young age, Kidney Camp is a place to let go of all that for a little while and enjoy life!



Joey received the "Caring Camper" Award at the 2010 Kidney Camp

So please, if you are looking for a charity to make a donation to, the National Kidney Foundation of Indiana is the place to go. **Please make your donation today!!!!** Your donation really DOES make a difference in a kid's life!!!! It did for me!!!

Thank you NKFI for all you do!!

Joey Gladish



Please support the NKFI. **"It really does make a difference."** **Please tear off the form and mail in the enclosed envelope.** **You can also go on line to www.kidneyindiana.org to make a donation.** **Thank you for your consideration and support.**

Enclosed is my gift of:

- \$1000
- \$500
- \$250
- \$100
- \$50
- \$25
- Other\$ _____

Please make checks payable to the National Kidney Foundation of Indiana.

Please charge my contribution to:

Visa Mastercard American Express Card# _____ Exp. Date ____/____/____

Signature _____ You may also call our office at 800-382-9971 or visit www.kidneyindiana.org to donate with a credit card.

Please print: Name(s) _____ City _____

Address _____ State _____ Zip _____ Donation made in honor/memorial: _____

*Gift may be tax deductible—Tax I.D. #35-1180274 (circle one) *Please provide address for us to send an acknowledgement.

There are many faces of kidney disease.



Meet one of these faces, Joey, an inspiring story.

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

My name is Joey Gladish and I was 10 years old when I was diagnosed with Alport's Syndrome, a rare kidney disease that leads to kidney failure in young males. For me, I was 13 years old when my kidneys failed. I was fortunate that I got excellent care through my nephrologist and nurses and the fact that my dad, Rob, was a good match for me made my life a whole lot better. On March 23, 2007 (two days after my 14th birthday) **my dad gave me one of his kidneys** and I have been growing strong ever since.

Joey's story does not end there.....



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