



### **Anne's Story: Support diabetes research through organ donation**

As a long-term Type 1 diabetic (I was diagnosed in 1968), you would think I would know all there is to know so far about the disease. And, as the mother of Charlie, my son with Type 1 diabetes, you would think I would know all about how to thank all those researchers and doctors who have helped us live a relatively healthy life, so far. Most of all, you would think that I would have lots of answers on how we could help others with diabetes to live well, too.

Truth is, I really know very little about how the disease even begins, in the body and what is even really happening in early stages. Because of this lack of knowledge, I was all ears when JDRF began the Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes ([nPOD](#)), studies designed to look at tissues from Type 1 diabetics who have donated their pancreas and related organs to science. The reason for nPOD is to learn all about diabetes in humans, with a goal for finding potential cures, instead of only looking into diabetes in animals, where diabetes is often very different from ours. Of key importance to me has been determining what really happens in human diabetes, so that we can ultimately find cures and preventions. Already nPOD studies have been responsible for re-writing medical textbooks on diabetes.

#### **Don't Rule Yourself Out**

I feel so much less powerless knowing that diabetes is making more sense due to these projects. One thing I learned is that my son and I can participate in these historic findings, thus allowing us to “give back” to those who work so hard to cure our disease. For most of my diabetic life, I thought no one would want my organs for research, but I was wrong. nPOD needs organs from diabetics, regardless of our age. Bottom line is that we get to the answers faster by participating as donors. Not only that, I learned that some of our organs may even be used for transplants, so I have indicated that our organs can be used for transplant and for research. The following fact helped me make these decisions to donate:

- Eighteen people die every day in the US in need of a transplant, including people with diabetes complications.

And, we are getting closer to eliminating those complications by donating to nPOD.

#### **Donate Life**

In 2008, I was in bad shape due to complications from my diabetes. Charlie had been diabetic for 10 years and was still healthy, thanks to the amazing care from his doctors. It had become clear to me that something needed to change with my health, so I could be around to ensure Charlie got the cure we had been wanting. I was offered a chance to have my life potentially saved, so I could be there for my kids. A miracle occurred when the most generous family donated the organs of their dying son, saving my life and the lives of many others. So, without a proper way to thank the family for these gifts, I do what I know will make a difference to so many—I urge you and your entire family to consider being organ donors, to science and toward transplantation. Please help others by saving lives; sign onto [Donate Life America](#) and become an organ donor.

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Sponsored by [www.jdrfnpod.org](http://www.jdrfnpod.org). The Network for Pancreatic Organ Donors with Diabetes (nPOD) is a collaborative type 1 diabetes research project funded by JDRF. We support scientific investigators by providing, without cost, rare and difficult to obtain tissues beneficial to their research. nPOD currently supports over [120 type 1 diabetes-related scientific studies](#) at institutions around the world. Our hope is that nPOD will prove a useful resource to the community of researchers dedicated to finding a cure for type 1 diabetes.