## American Living Organ Donor Fund www.HelpLivingOrganDonorsSaveLives.org

## **Living Organ Donor Network**

The ALODF is here to help you, living organ donors, in whatever way we can. Please share your ideas with us. <a href="mailto:info@helpinglivingdonors.org">info@helpinglivingdonors.org</a>

Here is what living organ donors have told us so far.

**Financial assistance**: We realize that the greatest barrier to donation, and the greatest hardship for many who donate, is trying to pay bills while on unpaid leave for the time it takes to recover from organ donation surgery. Check your state's laws and resources under "assistance for donors." For travel and lodging expenses see our list of "Other Living Organ Donor Resources." For help with unpaid leave while recovering from surgery, see "Applying for Help from the ALODF." The ALODF will try to help living organ donors in whatever way we can, so covering all living organ donation related expenses is a goal of ours, but at the moment we require exhaustion of other options before we even consider an application for assistance. Another alternative is to raise funds through organizations like Indiegogo life or Go Fund Me. It is possible that the ALODF may have an intern available to help you set up such a campaign. Please check with Sigrid.

**Support Group**: There are several support groups on the Internet for members of the transplant community. The ALODF has a closed group that requires approval for participation and accepts all kinds of living organ donors – kidney, liver, and others, but also accepts people who are considering donation. The group does not allow organ recipients or people seeking organs in the group and monitors the discussion to keep it relevant to issues important to living organ donors. <u>ALODF Facebook Support Group</u>.

**Community Outreach and Peer Program**: Sometimes an online group discussion is too public and not personal enough. The ALODF also maintains a list of living organ donors who volunteer to go the extra mile to help donors and potential donors with whatever they need. This may mean someone to talk to on the phone or in person. It may mean advice for where to stay or eat when the donor is traveling to an unfamiliar city to do the donation. It may mean a ride to the airport, picking something up from the drugstore, or other more involved volunteer activities.

The ALODF is willing to put donors and potential donors in touch with the people who have volunteered to be on the ALODF community donor buddy list in their town or near their transplant center. It is important for anyone who takes advantage of this resource to know that the ALODF has not vetted list participants in any way for trustworthiness or otherwise.

The same precautions taken when meeting anyone new on the Internet should be taken when choosing to contact someone from the ALODF list of volunteers.

The ALODF is working on building an on-the-ground community presence wherever we possibly can to both educate and assist people considering living organ donation and help living organ donors through the various phases of the donation process and afterwards. We hope to generate community involvement in the whole process both to generate awareness and to encourage in-kind support within the communities where donors live.

Alternative ways to tap into networks of neighbors and friends include reaching out to local churches or organizations like <u>Lotsa Helping Hands</u> or <u>Caring Bridge</u>. The only disadvantage of such groups is that they do not necessarily involve living organ donors.

Please note the ALODF disclaimer at -click here.