


# While you're trying to decide if you're going to help...

## ...Melissa's hope of living slowly fades.



Melissa Clynes has lived all of her 19 years with extreme physical challenges, yet there has always been someone who has been placed in her life at the right time to allow her to pursue the life God has planned for her. Nineteen years ago, it was a young baby named Emily whose life ended short, but her parents donated her heart to Melissa. At 16 years old it was her own mother who donated a kidney, but unfortunately a virus attacked that organ and she now needs another. Melissa cannot survive without a kidney. She is a beautiful, selfless young girl whose only desire is to go to college.

*Will you be the next one to help her?*

### ***Frequently Asked Questions...***

***Who is a good candidate for donating a kidney?*** Live kidney donors must come from someone in good health, with blood type either A or O (positive or negative), between the ages of 18 and 55, and free of problems such as heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, or a history of hepatitis. A confidential phone screening will help to determine your eligibility. An informational packet containing detailed donor information will be sent upon request.

***What is the testing process?*** If you are eligible, a simple blood test is required to see if you will be a match.

***What does the test cost?*** Melissa's insurance will cover the testing and surgery. The hospital will ask for an insurance card, but this is only standard procedure – you will not be billed.

***What is the surgery and recovery like?*** Laparoscopic surgery is used for kidney donation. Melissa's mother was only in the hospital two days and returned to work within two weeks.

***Will I get sick without one of my kidneys? Can I play sports?*** Donors can resume a normal, healthy life and continue the sports activities they already enjoy.

***Can I speak to Melissa's family for more information?***

YES! Melissa's parents, Mike and Mary Clynes (314-805-4006) will be happy to speak with you about the surgery and what it means for Melissa.

***Can't you survive on Dialysis?*** Dialysis puts stress on the heart, which Melissa has already received from a donor.

***Why do you need a live kidney; can't you just wait for a cadaver donation?*** Live kidney donation results in better graft survival, lower rates of acute rejection, and improved long-term functioning.

***If you want to help but find that you are not eligible, we ask that you pray daily for Melissa, her family, and also for her donor to soon come forward***

**For kidney donation information  
call Penny Scholl today at  
St. Louis Children's Hospital  
314-454-6216**