



## Announcing Kidney Stories of Hope Awardees

**Toronto, ON – May 17, 2010** –The Kidney Foundation of Canada (KFOC) today announced the awardees of its second annual *Kidney Stories of Hope* campaign. Five compelling stories were selected by The Kidney Foundation’s panel of judges and each of their authors receives a \$500 cash prize made possible through an unrestricted grant from Shire Canada.

*The Kidney Stories of Hope* campaign empowers Canadians affected by kidney disease to share their personal experiences while participating in a national effort to promote kidney education and research during March, Kidney Health Month. For each entry, the Foundation also received \$5 in funding from campaign partner, Shire Canada. Many heartfelt submissions came from across the country, and those awarded each act as a testament to the courage, strength and determination required by those confronted with kidney disease.

Please join us in congratulating the 2010 *Kidney Stories of Hope* campaign awardees from five regions across Canada:

1. Elaine Andrews - West Vancouver, BC
2. Brenda Delorme – St. Adolphe, MB (Prairies awardee)
3. Debbie Underwood – Zephyr, ON
4. Liz MacRae - Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot, QC
5. Pamela St. Pierre - North Tetagouche, NB (Atlantic awardee)

“Public education and awareness campaigns, kidney research and services, and appropriate and timely treatment are all vital to reducing the burden of kidney disease on individuals and the Canadian health care system,” said Paul Shay, National Executive Director of The Kidney Foundation of Canada. “*The Kidney Stories of Hope* campaign provides a platform for members of the kidney community to share their story of hope with a wider audience while helping to raise funds for essential kidney related programs and services. We thank all contributors for their powerful testimonials and particularly congratulate the 2010 awardees.”

### 2010 Stories of Hope

To read this year’s prized entries and for additional information on the campaign, please visit: <http://www.kidney.ca/storiesofhope>. The 2010 awardees and The Kidney Foundation of Canada regional spokespeople are available for interview and photo opportunities.

### About Kidneys

Every minute, one litre of blood (about one fifth of all the blood pumped by the heart) enters the kidneys through the renal artery to be cleaned, then flows back through the body. Kidneys regulate water in the body, remove wastes and produce hormones to regulate body functions such as blood pressure and red blood cell production.

### About The Kidney Foundation of Canada

The Kidney Foundation of Canada is the national volunteer organization committed to reducing the burden of kidney disease through funding and stimulating innovative research; providing education and support; promoting access to high quality healthcare; and increasing public awareness and commitment to advancing kidney health and organ donation. [www.kidney.ca](http://www.kidney.ca)

### About Shire

Shire’s strategic goal is to become the leading specialty biopharmaceutical company that focuses on meeting the needs of the specialist physician. Shire focuses its business on

attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), human genetic therapies (HGT), gastrointestinal (GI) diseases and kidney disease as well as opportunities in other therapeutic areas to the extent they arise through acquisitions. Shire's in-licensing, merger and acquisition efforts are focused on products in specialist markets with strong intellectual property protection and global rights. Shire believes that a carefully selected and balanced portfolio of products with strategically aligned and relatively small-scale sales forces will deliver strong results. Shire Canada Inc. is a subsidiary of Shire plc. Shire Canada Inc.'s operations are headquartered in Montréal, Québec. For further information on Shire Canada, please visit the Company's website: [www.shirecanada.com](http://www.shirecanada.com).

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**For more information or to schedule an interview with one of the awardees, please contact:**

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## **KIDNEY STORIES OF HOPE – AWARDEE SUBMISSIONS BACKGROUND**

**B.C. Awardee - Elaine Andrews - West Vancouver, BC**

One week into her graduating school year, my daughter Tara was diagnosed with End Stage Kidney Disease. The doctor called me directly at work to deliver the news. I've never felt in less control of our future than at that moment.

We drove to St. Paul's Hospital in total denial and remained as such while waiting for the doctor to insert a catheter into Tara's neck which would attach her to the dialysis machine. We bumped into Tara's dad Terry in the waiting room – I had not had time to call him. He was waiting for his own transplant from his sister, a result of a kidney disease we were told was not hereditary. Incredulous we held each other and cried.

Tara's kidney function did not come back. I was approved as a kidney donor 2 months later, and after many health setbacks, the transplant was finally done on March 22nd the following year. The improvement was immediate and she walked into my room by herself 24 hours later.

Tara will be 30 this year.

Kidney disease has brought out strength in Tara's character that I never knew she had. When it came time to choose a career, she decided to work in the hospital's Renal Unit and share her experiences with others giving back as she was generously given to. She is a ray of sunshine to the patients there, and is reminded daily of her second chance at life. She has been the subject of two highly successful fundraisers for The Kidney Foundation that we, as a family, have taken on to give back. When something is lost something is gained – It's been true for all of us who have been affected by kidney disease. In a very strange way, we are all blessed with appreciation for the lives we have.

### **Prairies Awardee (Manitoba) - Brenda Delorme – St. Adolphe, MB**

I believe my family to be one of the most unique in Manitoba. We are a large family and kidney disease has affected us all in one way or another. I realize that an illness like this will impact the entire family but ours is affected in a more unusual way.

My husband was diagnosed with IGA nephropathy or Berger's Disease at a young age and had a kidney transplant 14 years ago in 1996. He was very lucky to have two sisters and two brothers come forward to see if they were a match. As luck would have it, three of the four were matches for him. After prolonging the life of his kidneys for as long as possible his sister donated a kidney and he started feeling better the day after the surgery. With some ups and downs along the way, for the most part - if you look at him - you would not realize he has had a transplant.

Some years later my husband's oldest brother was diagnosed with the same kidney disease and had to go on peritoneal dialysis. He had some family members such as his middle brother, a sister-in-law and a niece come forward as well as friends to see if they were a match. As is the luck in our family, the middle brother became the donor and the transplant was done 3 years ago in 2007.

This is why I believe our family is unique as we had 2 siblings needing a transplant and 2 siblings from the same family that were the donors. If not for the efforts of The Kidney Foundation, our story could have a very different ending - or beginning - as we see it. Their tireless support and research really does save lives and touched our hearts.

### **Ontario Awardee - Debbie Underwood – Zephyr, ON**

In 2005, my husband began to experience symptoms (leg swelling, headaches, nausea) all of which he justified as being gout and migraines. In late 2006, after being treated for an infection in his leg, his blood pressure was taken and he was told "You need to see a doctor". He had (coincidentally) a physical booked for the following day and a urine sample showed something was wrong - and we heard, for the first time, "Renal Failure". Dan's story begins here, at Stage 3 Kidney Failure, diagnosed with Focal Segmental Glomerulosclerosis.

2007 was our year of research, medications (with their side effects), diet changes plus the emotional blow of being told that you have a chronic disease and finding a way to tell our children (ages 7 and 3) that dad was sick. 2007 was the year we found The Kidney Foundation of Canada. In 2008, we discovered the Walk of Life - York Region was having their inaugural walk. 2008 is the year that Dan realized how many people love and support him. We secretly formed our Team GOTCHya Covered, had a logo designed (a bumble-bee riding a motorcycle) and the team (family, friends, classmates), proudly wearing our shirts, surprised him with a party. This day will forever be in our memories. By the end of this year, GOTCHya Covered hopes to have raised a total of \$10,000 for kidney research.

Kidney disease has changed our lives. Dan refuses to slow down and is doing everything he can to slow the progress of his disease. Recently, at Toronto General Hospital, his specialist told him "Keep on doing what you are doing, it's working, you have made my day!" It's 2010 and he is still Stage 3!!

### **Quebec Awardee - Liz MacRae - Notre Dame de l'Île Perrot, QC**

I am so thankful to The Kidney Foundation for their financial help. The Foundation gave us money monthly that went towards rides to dialysis clinics for my mom Edna MacRae. She lived in Brockville, Ontario and although there was a satellite dialysis clinic a few minutes drive from her retirement home, her other health conditions as well as the dialysis made it impossible for her to continue to be dialyzed there. She had to go to Kingston General Hospital three and sometimes five times a week for her dialysis treatments because she needed close monitoring by doctors. This drive is about an hour and a quarter each way and mom was in her 80s.

The days were very long for her and she was so tired after those dialysis sessions. She was a wonderful trooper though and had a zest for life and a positive attitude about everything. Her driver Dave and she got along so well. He played the accordion and would go to different hospital wards and play for the patients while waiting for mom and others to finish their dialysis sessions.

I live in Montreal and as an actress, I could visit mom often and arrange my schedule so as to keep my job and also tend to her needs. I feel blessed and so thankful. I feel that beyond a doubt the financial help from The Kidney Foundation gave us many more precious years together. It gave us both such peace of mind and lightened the load and, as anyone who is ill or caring for someone who is ill knows, any lightening of the load is a huge help.

**Atlantic Awardee (N.B.) - Pamela St. Pierre - North Tetagouche, NB**

I have had my transplant for 36 years. When I went for a medical exam for a job in Montreal, it was discovered that I had extra protein in the urine and I was called at work to go to the Montreal General Hospital immediately for tests. Six weeks later I was told that within 6 months to 6 years, I would require a kidney transplant. I turned 21 while in the hospital. I lost my job and moved back home to Cornwall, Ontario.

Within 3 months, my kidneys failed and I ended up receiving a kidney from my mother. However, a blood clot formed, causing rejection. I went on home dialysis in Cornwall and 1 1/2 years later, received a call from Dr. Mangel to come to Montreal for a second transplant! All went well and for 35 years, I have taken up curling, cross-country skiing, Scottish Country dancing, bowling, and painting. I ran a house, worked for over 20 years as a secretary and moved around the country with my husband and daughter.

The Kidney Foundation helped us out to go to 3 different weekend conventions and the support was phenomenal! The workshops were informational and enjoyable and I met all kinds of other dialysis and kidney transplant patients. My husband and I have joined with a few other people and formed a Chapter of the Kidney Foundation here in Bathurst, N.B. and we are looking forward to becoming a larger group, helping out new patients. I am also teaching painting to dialysis patients while on dialysis and that is truly heart-warming as they are really enjoying it, and they say painting helps make the time fly by.