

# LOOKING FOR A KIDNEY DONOR



**Hello, my name is Moneim Z., and I am a blind male with chronic kidney disease, who needs a living kidney donor for a transplant. My blood type is B+, and I can accept a kidney from individuals who have blood types B and O.**

To contact me directly, please email me at [moneimz87@gmail.com](mailto:moneimz87@gmail.com) or call at **571-428-5065**. My living donor coordinator at INOVA Hospital, Amileen Cruz can be reached at **(703) 776-8370**, or via email at [amileencheska.cruz@inova.org](mailto:amileencheska.cruz@inova.org).

## MY STORY

I became blind back in 1996. As I came to terms with my blindness, there were a few years where I was completely shattered, as one would be when you learn of such life-altering news, but I refused to let my blindness get in the way of living my life. It started with learning braille, and since it was the early 2000s at this point, and the information/tech age was upon us, I contacted the National Federation of the Blind, and acquired a talking computer - yes, it's as cool as it sounds! I knew there wasn't much I could do in my original field of mechanical engineering without my eyesight, so I had to change course. I had just immigrated from Tunisia then, so I signed up for ESL courses at my local community college (my third language after Arabic and French). Things took longer to do with my screen readers, but I was determined to learn.

I went on to get a master's degree in Conflict Analysis and Resolution in 2009. I became a mediator for the Fairfax City government, went back to school for my MBA and Doctorate degrees, and got a job as a Business Faculty Member and Dean of Online Education at local colleges - positions I held until 2017. At this time, I was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease, which was very devastating news to hear. Despite my disability, I worked so hard to get to a place where I was able to do meaningful work and help others, but the state of my health resulted in me being unable to work. I went back to Tunisia to be with my mother because her health was deteriorating, and due to the pandemic, I stayed there longer than I expected. She recently passed away, and I returned to the States for treatment for my kidneys. I was diagnosed with end-stage renal failure and was started on hemodialysis in 2022. I attend sessions three times a week, which, as you can imagine, with my disability, is very difficult to manage.

**I was informed by my doctors that I only have 1-2 years to find a matching kidney donor to ensure a successful surgery and my survival. For this reason, I am searching far and wide for a kidney donor and remaining hopeful about this second chance at life. I've had many trying experiences in my lifetime, but I hope to be able to continue to be a positive contributor to society in educational and philanthropic capacities if fortunate enough to find a donor. I hope this message reaches someone who is willing to help - for your selfless act of sacrifice, I will forever be in your debt.**

Thank you!

Moneim