



## **ONE KIDNEY CLIMBER: Rebekah Thomas, Burlington-Plattsburgh**

**REBEKAH THOMAS** was inspired to donate by one of her students who was a recipient many years ago. Rebekah is an elementary school teacher who, years ago, had a student who needed both a liver and kidney transplant. At the time, she knew very little about living organ donation, but it was something she continued to learn more about after her student had her transplants when she received both a liver and a kidney from living donors (her father and a close family friend) in middle school and thrived as a healthy

young high school student, went on to get her BSN, and is now working as a nurse.

In 2018, Rebekah decided the time was right to move forward as a donor and ultimately donated both a lobe of her liver and a kidney at the same hospital where her student had her transplants. Some of her nurses and surgeons were also part of Rebekah's team, giving her a sense of certainty that she was in the right place at the right time, doing the right thing.

She is climbing to promote awareness of the urgent need for living organ donation. With over 100,000 people waiting for transplants, she feels that it is up to her and supporters to advocate for those who may not be able to advocate for themselves. Rebekah is an EL Teacher in Burlington, Vermont. She is surrounded by her loving

Mom, Kathleen; sisters - Talaia and Becky; brothers - Forrest and Marshall; and cat Fauci. When she is not climbing mountains, she enjoys running, cooking, traveling, art, donating platelets, and being outside.

Rebekah donated her liver on July 22, 2019, and kidney on September 25, 2020. “I believe that this climb will demonstrate that organ donors can continue to pursue their active lifestyles and push themselves in new athletic endeavors.”



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