

**MARY BRAUNREUTHER** was inspired to donate when her best friend Frankie was going into stage four kidney failure due to PKD. She never heard of living organ donation and had no idea donating a kidney was possible. Her mother had kidney cancer years ago and learned you only need one kidney to live. The thought that her best friend's quality of life could spiral down, go on dialysis, or no longer be in her life was a big "NO" in her book. She immediately offered to be his donor and was the perfect match!

The biggest challenge she faced during her kidney donation journey was the people's perception of living donation. She wanted to keep her kidney donation private and not tell many people. The feedback she received has driven her to share her journey and show the world that donation does not negatively impact the quality of life and you can live a very healthy and active lifestyle.

Mary is an automotive sales consultant at Apple Honda and resides in Manorville, NY. She has a daughter Marissa, son Ryan, and doggie Nova. When she is not climbing mountains, she enjoys spending time with her kids and doggie, seeing friends, walking, hiking, paddleboarding, and staying active.

Mary donated her kidney on September 14, 2023, at Mount Sinai Hospital in NYC. "I donated because someone I love was in need." I am very excited to be joining other Kidney Donor Athletes to show awareness and share our journey climbing 3-Volcanoes in Guatemala in 2025!