

Stephen Liegghio

"In 2012 I felt moved to donate a kidney. After doing some research I was connected to a gentleman in the Chicago area in need and went thru the process. One week before our surgery, during the final cross match, we ran into a problem and I was no longer a match for him. Turned out to be a blessing in disguise as we entered the paired exchange program which resulted in three people getting kidneys instead of one.

I ran my first marathon in Chicago in 2014 to honor my recipient and since then I've gone on to run 47 marathons, including all seven of the World Marathon Majors. More importantly, I've had three friends who have gone on to become kidney donors as well during that time.

I'm climbing Kilimanjaro and continuing to run in order to show people what you can do with one kidney in the hopes that others will answer the call and be life saving gift for one of the 91,000 people on the national transplant waiting list.

I'm so looking forward to summiting Kilimanjaro on World Kidney Day next year with 15 other donors to show the life you can live as part of the one kidney club and share this message of hope with the world."