

Sample Letters (for mail or email)

EXAMPLE:

Dear (Personalize letter if possible),

I am writing to you about my (i.e. friend, brother), Mike. It's to let you know about his current health challenge, and how you can help. This is not an easy letter for me to write, but I know that without sending this, someone who might be interested in helping won't have that opportunity.

Mike is a wonderful person. (You could talk about the work that Mike does, his family, the volunteer work he has done, his involvement with the community, anything that could connect him with other people.)

Mike suffers from kidney failure. (Give a brief history of Mike's health challenges. Mention if Mike's on dialysis, had a previous transplant, how long he's been waiting, how many other people have tried to help etc. You could even include a picture of Mike that you think others would like to see. If Mike has made many positive lifestyle changes, mention them. If you are unable to donate, explain why.)

Explain that there is a long wait for a deceased donor and the benefits of receiving a kidney from a living donor. (The wait for a deceased donor is over 5 years and a kidney from a living donor lasts twice as long as one from a deceased donor).

If Mike isn't on dialysis, talk about how difficult it is to have a normal life while being on kidney dialysis, if he is on dialysis, you could describe the routine.

Be as straight forward as possible, ***"Mike needs a new kidney, and we hope you will consider being tested to be a donor."***

I know this is a big request. But I make it on behalf of someone who devotes every day of his life to making a difference to his family and friends.

"If you can help, please do. If you know anyone who might, please forward this on." Forwarding this to your family, friends, workplace, school, congregation, or any other communities you belong to would be most gratefully appreciated.

If you think you may be interested in helping Mike, you could get a blood test or donate blood to find out your blood type. (You can mention that you are especially hopeful of finding a type O donor, if patient is type O). Even if you are not an exact match then there is always the option of paired donation, which allows for 'swapping' kidneys with someone who does match. If you would like to learn more about living kidney donation, please feel free to call me at XXX-XXX-XXXX. I want to be as helpful as possible. You can also visit www.christianacare.org/kidneytransplant to learn more about living kidney donation. If you are interested in considering living kidney donation you can visit www.christianacare.org/kidneytransplant and click on the blue box "Interested in Living Donation?" to see if you could be able to start the living donor evaluation process. Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,

[Sign your name (Patient or Champion)]