

# VOLUNTEERS

## A FAILING KIDNEY BECAME AN AWESOME BLESSING

by Brooke Connell, Midwest Transplant Network



Maxine McMullen

Maxine McMullen had no idea she was in danger of losing a kidney. So when she received a call from her doctor saying blood work showed her kidneys had failed, she was in shock. For more than three years, Maxine underwent dialysis treatment three times per week and continued to work every day.

Then, in March 2004, she received the call to report to the hospital immediately – doctors had a kidney for her. Following her transplant, Maxine felt better immediately. She says, “I am awesomely blessed. I know I was put on this earth to inspire others and educate people on the importance of organ donation.” This belief has led her to help others going through the long and painful process of dialysis, and to her work as a Midwest Transplant Network Ambassador.

“We know we can always count on Maxine if a health fair or speaking engagement comes up to find the time to volunteer for MTN,” said Brooke Connell, MTN Public Affairs Manager.

As an Ambassador, Maxine speaks to a variety of groups about the importance of organ donation and to bring awareness to the more than 99,000 people waiting for a kidney transplant in the United States. She was awarded the MTN Ambassador of the Year for 2015 in recognition of her commitment.

“It’s a privilege to be able to talk to people about donation. If you have the opportunity to give someone else a chance at the beauty of the tree of life, why wouldn’t you?” said Maxine.

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