



PRESS RELEASE

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Mother donates kidney to her son, helps save his life

Live donor procedure was a first at Driscoll Children's Hospital

CORPUS CHRISTI – This week saw another first at Driscoll Children's Hospital. The mother of a child with renal failure donated one of her kidneys to her son. While kidney transplants have been performed at Driscoll Children's Hospital for more than three years, all living donor operations up to this point have been in one of the area adult hospitals. Last year, however, UNOS (United Network for Organ Sharing), the non-profit organization responsible for overseeing transplantation in the United States, required that all living donor operations be performed at the transplant center. In other words, Driscoll had to find a way to perform adult living donor nephrectomies in a children's hospital in order to continue to provide this valuable service to its young patients.

“It took 18 months of planning, and 30 to 40 people to prepare for this one operation. We all had to step a little out of our comfort zone to make this happen,” said transplant surgeon Stephen Almond, M.D.

(Cont.)

In this first for Driscoll, Nichole Robles' left kidney was removed in one operating room while in the adjoining operating room, her son Steve, 11, was being prepared to receive the kidney.

“It was a great success,” Dr. Almond said. “Having both patients – the donor and recipient – in the same hospital has many benefits. Postoperatively, mom gets to see the child and the child gets to see the mom.”

Steve Robles had been on dialysis treatment at Driscoll Children's Hospital for a year and a half prior to the transplant. His mother said she was happy to donate one of her kidneys and help end his dependence on the dialysis machine.

“I felt like that was part of my job as a mother,” Nichole Robles said. “I wouldn't have had it any other way. Although dialysis was keeping him alive, in the long run only a new kidney could save his life.”

The actual surgeries took four and a half hours each. Nichole Robles and her son are recovering with no complications.

(Cont.)

Lying in the hospital bed next to his mother, Steve Robles seems more concerned with the video game he is playing on an overhead TV.

“I’m glad I don’t have to do dialysis any more,” he said. “I feel ready to go!”

Driscoll physicians have performed 37 kidney transplants since the program began in 2007.

About Driscoll Children’s Hospital...

*“Improve the health of adults and you give them back their health...
Improve the health of children and you give them their life.”*

Driscoll Children’s Hospital is a 189-bed pediatric tertiary care center with pediatric specialists representing 32 medical and 13 surgical specialties offering care throughout South Texas, including Corpus Christi, the Rio Grande Valley, Victoria and Laredo. Each year, more than 100,000 children receive care through Driscoll, including the 40,000 patients seen at South Texas’ first emergency room created specifically for pediatrics.

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