

Celebrate the Gift!



Dear Friend,

We are thrilled to announce that Taka received her kidney transplant on May 21! But her transplant expenses have just begun, and she still needs your help.

After battling chronic kidney disease for 10 years and traveling from Japan to Iowa for medical care, she was shocked and excited to receive the phone call that would change her life forever! While in the U.S., she's been living with Kim Burdakin, a liver transplant recipient and powerful transplant advocate. Kim drove Taka to the hospital and helped care for her after the surgery.

Taka spent six days in the hospital, and she was feeling like a new woman by the third day! She couldn't believe her life changed so dramatically in just one day. Although she has faced some setbacks, she feels more energetic and is thrilled to spend as much time as she'd like visiting with friends. Before receiving her transplant, her rigorous dialysis scheduled controlled much of her life. She also loves eating normal foods again now that she doesn't have to follow a strict diet.

Her time in America has meant so much to her, and she is thankful to have experienced the love and support from so many people while here. She is grateful for her donor who made the selfless decision to become an organ donor.

Unfortunately, Taka's new life came at a very high price.

Taka has overcome the biggest obstacle by receiving her transplant. But that's just the first of many hurdles she faces. Her kidney transplant bill for the first year alone will exceed \$80,000, and now she must take medications for the rest of her life to keep her body from rejecting her new kidney. These medications are just as critical as the transplant itself. Taka is currently taking 10 different medicines a day, and one medication costs nearly \$3,000!

Many people are unaware of the lifelong expenses associated with transplants, and Taka needs your help now more than ever. You can make a difference!

The National Foundation for Transplants (NFT) is working with volunteers and supporters to help relieve the growing burden of expenses for Taka. By making a gift in her honor, you will enable NFT to provide Taka with the financial support she needs to ensure that she remains healthy.

You can help in the following ways:

- Visit www.transplants.org to make a secure online donation. Click on Patients We Help and search for Taka Maeda, or
- Send a tax-deductible donation in the self-addressed envelope using the enclosed donation form, via check or credit card. **Please make your check payable to NFT Iowa Transplant Fund. Remember to write "in honor of Taka Maeda" on the memo line.**

If you have any questions about NFT, feel free to contact the staff at 800-489-3863.

Many Thanks!



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