



(Photo credit Philmont Scout Ranch. Noah Barta is seated 2nd from the right.)

Let me introduce our son Noah Barta, now 24 years old. He began his scouting career as a Tiger Cub in Seattle. Spending his most active and memorable scouting years in Troop 91 of Snohomish, he finished his scouting career as a Life Scout while a sophomore in high school in Mount Vernon.

Noah was diagnosed with chronic kidney disease at age four and after an initial successful corrective surgery to his ureters he remained asymptomatic for about ten years. Unfortunately, during the past year his kidney function has declined rapidly. As his kidneys' filtering efficiency continues to deteriorate he will soon enter "end stage renal failure". At that point he

will require dialysis (a short-term solution) or a transplant to survive.

In April, shortly after his 24th birthday, Noah was placed on the waiting list to receive a kidney transplant at UW Medical Center.

We have now begun an active search for a potential living donor who is willing to make the tremendous gift of one of their own kidneys to our son. Finding a perfect donor match soon for Noah will very likely keep him from having to undergo dialysis. Dialysis would be disabling, have severe negative impacts on Noah's quality of life, and would probably significantly shorten his lifespan.

Noah has always lived an active, athletic, and largely outdoor life. He works on strenuous construction projects varying



from sheet metal work and solar panel installation to his recent entry into an electrician apprenticeship. Every weekend of the ski season he's on the slopes. The rest of the year you will find him fishing, golfing, backpacking, or sky diving.

This level of activity and his otherwise excellent health have prioritized him somewhat on the waiting list; he's the type of patient most likely to have an excellent outcome from transplant.

Even so, the average wait time to receive a kidney from a deceased donor is 3-5 years. Noah will certainly require dialysis long before a cadaver kidney becomes available. Unfortunately, while dialysis would be necessary to sustain his life in that case, it is also very damaging to the body. Dialysis puts a great strain on the

heart, causes hardening of blood vessels, and leads to overall frailty. If he must receive dialysis for any length of time while waiting for a kidney it could shorten his lifespan to as little as five years. Undergoing dialysis prior to receiving a kidney transplant also has a negative impact upon the survival of the transplanted kidney.

Our son has just begun his life. We hope to one day see him leading his own children through life. He's going to be an awesome dad. As a survivor of pediatric cancer myself, this experience has reminded me how painful it must have been for my own parents to watch their 13-year-old son walking the fine line between life and death during my years of treatment.





Why have you received this letter? As Noah's dad, I've agreed to be what the UW Transplant Center refers to as a "Living Donor Champion" for Noah. In short, I'm putting my son's story in front of as many people who might have a "connection" with him as possible. This connection might be with parents through his years in the Scouting community, or in the various churches our family has been part of during several geographical moves, or even the high school he attended. Our job is to tell Noah's story.

This is a tremendous "ask" that we're making. Perhaps his story struck a chord with you and you would like to learn more about the process of living kidney donation. Or maybe you would like to

begin a simple initial screening process to see if you could consider becoming a donor. The first step is to contact the UW Transplant Center using the address, phone, or QR Code below.

With sincere thanks,
Stan and Cathi Barta

Key Points for Kidney Donors

- *Most healthy people can donate.*
- *Donors can change their mind at any point in the process.*
- *Testing and screening expenses are covered by Noah's insurance and UW Medical Center.*
- *If you are not a perfect match for Noah, "paired exchanges" are common: your kidney could save someone else who had found a donor that was a match for Noah.*
- *The UW transplant team's priority is to never put a donor at undue risk.*

UWMEDICINE.ORG/DONOR

206.598.3627



