

1/17/2010

Dearest Smith College Alumnae Association Clubs,

My name is Christina Cheung, and I am a Smith alum from the Class of 2008. I lived in Baldwin House, studied abroad in Paris, and double majored in Government and French Studies. I am currently working at a large law firm in San Francisco, and I hope to attend law school soon.

The reason I am writing may appear rather untoward, but due to an unforeseeable and pressing matter, I feel compelled to reach out to the Smith alumnae community.

My older sister, Yvonne, was diagnosed at a young age with Lupus, a chronic inflammatory disease that occurs when the body's immune system attacks its own tissues and organs. Due to a particularly debilitating episode some years prior, Yvonne's kidneys are now failing, thus compelling her to seek a kidney donor at this time.

Although her medical team will enroll her onto the New York waiting list, there is a respective wait of approximately 7 years. Therefore, I am writing with the sincere wish to create a support network for Yvonne.

I have no desire, however, to render anyone uncomfortable during the discussion of this delicate matter. I do not expect anything and I pressure no one. My only intention is to maximize the number of people informed of the situation, in anticipation that through our efforts, we may be able to find a kidney donor as soon as possible. In short, I'm banking on an unexpected miracle such as the one in the article I have attached: a taxi driver in Arizona offered his kidney to a frequent passenger of his in August 2009.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/offbeat/2009-08-24-kidney-donor-taxi-driver_N.htm

In light of this, here are the fast facts. Yvonne is 34 years old. Her blood type is B-positive, and she may only receive from a donor with blood types B and O. The procedure will occur at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, and Yvonne's insurance will cover all of the donor's medical expenses. My family and I are prepared to cover supplemental costs.

Therefore, I would like to request that you consider testing your blood type. Unfortunately, my blood type is not compatible. If you do not wish to consider this option, I only beg that you do the following:

Please take a minute to forward this information on to as many people as you see fit. In terms of maximizing exposure, the window of opportunity becomes larger when more people are enlisted in the cause, if not only to locate our miracle, but to allow people to share their knowledgeable insight and resources.

Thank you all very much for your time and consideration – I am truly indebted to all of you. Please feel free to contact me for more information at ccheung729@gmail.com.

Very truly yours,
Christina Cheung