

**A Poem by Vaughn Whittaker, M.D.**  
**Kidney Transplant Surgeon at Upstate University Hospital**

Spring is here again

The sun shines, the temperature is inching up

New life sprouts from the ground

The snow melts

There is green that is reaching up

Soon there will be evidence of new growth and life all around

So this is a fitting time to recall what we do all year round

With the Gift of Life that donors pass on

We are able to allow the sun to shine in the life of others who are experiencing their Winter of health woes

We are able to allow the warmth of life to re-energize their bodies and spirit

We are able to transplant into their bodies “new life” and see a rebirth

The snow of ill health and suffering slowly melts away with the warm rays of a new gift

The flow of their faces represents the resplendent green overgrowth that comes naturally

Donors and their families do this all year round: Winter, Spring, Summer and Autumn.

Because of this selfless gift, husbands will get to spend more quality years loving their wives

Sons will see their Fathers get back the energies to run their businesses and be the Dad they grew up with, spritely and vigorous!

Mothers will give their Sons the chance to continue with their dreams of creating foods and taste that enhances the lives of many in our community

Vacations hitherto not taken are enjoyed because a parent in a far-away state decided to pass on the Gift of Life from their child so that someone they don't know may know a better life

Today: there are 123,274 persons in this USA who are waiting for an organ

In January alone we did 2,577 transplants. That was due to the generosity of 1,257 donors in the month

We are greatly indebted to all who, in my estimation, are committed to the cause so near and dear to so many whose lives would never be the same.

-----

**Dr. Whittaker composed this poem so that he could read it during the National Donate Life Month celebration at Upstate University Hospital in April 2015.**

**The poem was published in the Spring 2015 edition of “Partners,” a Finger Lakes Donor Recovery Network e-newsletter that informs healthcare professionals about organ donation and transplantation.**