

# BEYOND THE BADGE

## SDPO TIARA SUMMERS SELFLESSLY DONATES LIFE TO A LOVED ONE

Supervising Deputy Probation Officer Tiara Summers' journey with her brother, Thomas Pinn, and their family started over 23 years ago when he was diagnosed with kidney failure at the age of 19. He was placed on dialysis for three years, and at 22, he received his first transplant, with the kidney donated by a deceased donor.

His original transplant lasted 20 years. In March of 2020, Thomas's donated kidney started to fail. By August, his kidney was only functioning at 14% and eventually dropped to 11%. Time was of the essence, and SDPO Summers and her family immediately sprang into action. "So many people need kidney transplants, and my family and I are making it a point to talk about this issue. People don't understand that they would be saving a person's life," expressed Mrs. Summers.

When Mrs. Summers and her family were informed of Thomas's kidney failure, they started meeting virtually every Wednesday evening for prayer. With the hopes of lightening the circumstances, they also began a friendly family competition of who had the best kidney to donate! They all started filling out paperwork and participating in a series of medical tests, including blood work, blood pressure monitoring, urine samples, etc. The competition dwindled to Mrs. Summers and two other siblings as finalist. Mrs. Summers ultimately won, coming in as an identical match for her brother.

She proclaimed with pride, "The nurse told me; she had never seen anything like this. I was so much of a match that it was like he would be getting his own kidney. My kidney would be the last one he would ever need." The family rejoiced at this news and prepared to proceed.



SDPO Tiara Summers with her brother, Thomas Pinn

# BEYOND THE BADGE (CONT)

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Sister and brother

"The greatest thing is to give life, and I was able to do that for my brother."  
- *SDPO Tiara Summers*



SDPO Tiara Summers

After winning the family's perfect donor competition, in January of 2021, Ms. Summers traveled to San Francisco, where her brother, Thomas, resides. They both met with several surgeons and nurse practitioners at the Connie Frank Transplant Center at the University of California San Francisco and underwent even more intense medical screenings.

With the support of her husband, daughter, and family, on April 14, 2021, SDPO Summers donated one of her kidneys to her older brother. "When I first woke up that morning, I was feeling a little anxious, but by the time I got into the room where they prepared me for the surgery, God gave me a sense of peace." The procedure took approximately 4 hours. Upon her awakening, Mrs. Summers admits that she was in a lot of pain and felt very weak. However, her happiest moment was seeing her brother roll into her room, crying and proclaiming, "Sis! We did it! We did it!".

She recalled, "Seeing him gave me so much encouragement. I was thanking God. Immediately upon my brother getting my kidney, life was birthed into him again. It was so worth it!" Post-surgery she was frail, so Thomas would end up visiting her hospital room frequently. He graduated from a wheelchair to a walker and then to walking without any assistance. They were both discharged four days after the transplant.

Although the recovery has been more challenging than expected, Mrs. Summers states that she would not change anything about her decision. She expressed that she would forever choose to give her brother life over her pain for a couple of months. Witnessing what the transplant has done for him, his wife, and their children brings her extreme joy.

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She continues her road to recovery. She has experienced abdominal, shoulder, and back pain throughout the journey but says every day is better than the last. She is no longer walking with a walker and is now able to walk without assistance.

SDPO Summers and her family have committed to encouraging others to consider becoming kidney donors. She hopes that her story of selflessness will motivate and inspire more people to educate themselves about donating. She believes that when you help one person, you bless multiple people.

"To God be the glory. Everything about this story was aligned with His will and purpose. I thank God for choosing my family to be a testament to other families and encouraging others to be selfless. Nothing about this benefits my health, but it brings life to someone else. That is the bigger picture. When you say you love someone and God presents you with the opportunity to do something completely outside of you, will you say yes? I'm grateful that I did." SDPO Summers expressed.

According to UCSF, Kidney failure affect almost 750,000 people per year in the United States. More than 100,000 patients are on the kidney transplant list, but there were just over 21,000 donor organs available for a transplant last year. The need for donor kidneys in the United States is rising at 8% per year. Please consider being a donor.

Probation News



Thomas Pinn and Family