



Woman's Survival Shows Importance Of Organ Donation

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Friday was National Donate Life Day, a day to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation. There are more than 800 West Virginians waiting for a life-saving organ. We talked to one young woman, who knows just how important organ donation is.

Megan Mobley, 26, is full of life and, literally, back in the saddle doing what she loves.

"I've been riding horses since birth, and they have always been my life and my passion," Mobley said.

But that passion had to be put on hold about three years ago, because her health started declining. Mobley, of Buffalo, was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis, a chronic lung disease, at the age of five.

"When I was diagnosed at five, they said I would never make it past grade school," she said. "Then they said, 'She's not going to make it past 18 or 21,' and, when I did, they stopped putting an expectancy on my life."

But in September, Mobley became incredibly sick with severe lung infections. Then, in October, she had to be flown to Pittsburgh and put on a machine, flowing clean oxygen throughout her body, keeping her alive. That machine was the only thing keeping her alive, until receiving a life-saving gift, a set of lungs from an organ donor.

The donor was a young woman, about Mobley's age, who she knows little about. But she does know without the double lung transplant, she wouldn't be here at all.

For Mobley, six months out and doing great, each step and every breath now have even more meaning.

"The little stuff like watching my nephew open Christmas presents," she said.

And for Christmas, she was there, coming home from Pittsburg a week before the holiday. She also got a surprise, a new horse, named Steel.

Mobley's already started riding again and hopes to start barrel racing again soon. It was all thanks to a stranger who has given her a second wind.

"I hope that I do make my donor proud and her family," Mobley said. "She's always in the back of my mind. Every breath I take is because of her."

Megan still has cystic fibrosis because it's in her genes, but her lungs are free and clear and she says she has never had any of the other complications, like diabetes or kidney problems, that can sometimes be associated with CF, so she hopes to have a healthy future ahead of her.

For more information on the Center for Organ Recovery and Education or CORE and to sign up to be an organ and tissue donor, you can log onto www.DonateLifeWV.org or call 1-800-DONORS-7.

http://www.wchstv.com/newsroom/eyewitness/130419_15456.shtml