

## Georges Needs a Kidney Part 8 NO MORE!!

It is with the greatest joy and happiness that we can celebrate with Georges Annan Kingsley and his family that he has recently received his long awaited kidney transplant. For regular readers of the News and Views the first article on this topic appeared in March of 2017. Over the next 11 months 7 article in all were written explaining the need and process of kidney donation.

On October 19<sup>th</sup> at Hartford Hospital Georges finally received the kidney that will allow him to live the full and productive life that he has been denied for the past 7 years.

Georges came to Asylum Hill from Ivory Coast just over 5 years ago as a political and medical refugee. It is likely that his political problems brought about his kidney failure, but suffice it to say that eventually, after many months in Ghana, Georges was able to immigrate to the US and Hartford where a newly formed Committee intended to welcome new arrivals did just that.



His first public event was June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, World Refugee Day when he participated in the AHNA & Hartford Public Library's collaboration with CPBN, *New Voices of Asylum Hill*. Georges was the last of eight immigrants to tell their story in their native language with a member of the receiving community translating it into English. At the end of Georges story he introduced to all those present his wife and son who had just arrived from Ivory Coast the day before!

Asylum Hill embraced Georges and he responded by embracing Asylum Hill. In those five years, Hartford hospital's Nephrology Department made sure that Georges received the medical care he needed including dialysis three days a week, and Georges contributed to Asylum Hill and Hartford by creating numerous works of Art, most notably the banner that hangs at the most recently built garage addition of The Hartford's on Collins St, as well as two fashion shows and several musical and performance events and art displays. His most recent achievement was becoming a US Citizen which he did on the 27<sup>th</sup> in New Haven. Georges has also found time to become a Board member of AHNA as well as a founding member of the Welcoming Committee.

The story of how he received this kidney is every bit as amazing as his life here has been. After acquiring two potential donors in the match program, Georges discovered that an anonymous donor from California, whose blood type matched his, chose him from a list of potential recipients and then began the process of qualifying as a viable donor. The only

details Georges was able to discover is that his anonymous donor is nearly the same age as Georges, and it was the fact that Georges was listed as an artist that helped the donor to choose him. There are many qualities between a recipient and a donor that need to match for the transplant to be most successful. Blood type is first among them, but there are many others that when they match ensure a better outcome. Typically siblings often have a 95% match, Usually only identical twins have a 100% match. Most amazingly, As Georges said "my donor and I are a 100% match!"

Georges still has a few months of recuperation ahead, but soon he will be able to do even more with AHNA, the neighborhood and the City.

Notes of well wishes can be dropped off at Asylum Hill Congregational Church c/o AHNA or by message on Facebook.