

NEWS RELEASE

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VALENTINE'S DAY TRANSPLANT TO BE PERFORMED AT SUMMA

Akron, Ohio — On Valentine's Day, Jenny Menhennet, 25, will give her husband Ronald "Jay" Menhennet, 34, the ultimate gift - a kidney. Stuart M. Flechner, M.D., will perform the kidney transplant at 8 a.m., on Monday, February 14, at Summa's Akron City Hospital. The couple, who reside in Warren, Ohio, and will celebrate their third anniversary on March 26, will be admitted to the hospital the night before the surgery.

"My kidneys are at 12 percent function," said Jay Menhennet, who has battled diabetes for the last 16 years and is currently under the care of Christopher Boshkos, M.D., a nephrologist (kidney specialist). "I have been suffering for the last three years at 20 percent function, but that recently dropped quickly to 12 percent."

Because Jay Menhennet's family is scattered around the world, it was not possible for them to become kidney donors. So, because the couple firmly believes in "in sickness and in health," his wife Jenny was tested for a possible match and the ability to become a donor. The results indicated a 4 out of 6 match - evidence that the young couple is more than just a love match.

"That's a rare, excellent match between a husband-wife team. Husband and wife matches are usually 0 to 2," said Cathy Keating, R.N., a kidney transplant coordinator at Summa Health System, who explained that a person's kidney type is determined by evaluation of the six different antigens on chromosome six. "The better the match, the better the long-term outcome."

There are three types of kidney transplants, including:

- **Living-related transplant**, when a blood relative will donate a kidney;
- **Cadaver transplant**, when a patient is on a waiting list and receives a kidney from someone who has died; and
- **Living, non-related transplant**, when someone who has an emotional bond with the recipient will donate, as is the case with a husband-wife team.