**2nd Ever US Kidney Transplant from Living HIV+ Donor to HIV+ Recipient is from Hampton Roads**

**Norfolk, VA** – Duke Health has announced that they’ve successfully completed a transplant of an HIV-positive kidney to an HIV-positive recipient, making it the second HIV-positive transplant in US history.

**A few years ago, organ donation from an HIV positive person was not only unheard of in the United States, it was illegal. That all changed with the passage of The HOPE Act (HIV Organ Policy Equity Act) in 2013 (fully enacted in 2015), which allows for organ donations of kidneys and livers from those deceased or living with HIV.**

Karl Neumann, a resident of Norfolk, VA for 12 years, became the second person ever in the United States to undergo this procedure. Karl has worked as a nurse in the transplant field for nearly 25 years and has followed the HOPE Act and HIV-positive organ transplantation closely over the years. As a nurse, he’s witnessed thousands of patients struggle with things like weekly dialysis, depression, and a loss of self when their medical condition causes them to be pulled away from friends, family, relationships, and their careers.

“There are people dying on the waitlist every day. 10,000 people on the waitlist dying every year. There are only a few thousand transplants that occur every year, even though there’s over 100,000 people on the list. I just wanted to get someone off dialysis, get them back to work, get them back with their family,” Karl told us as he prepared for a public announcement at Duke today, where the transplant took place about a month ago. Duke Health made an official announcement today at 4PM EDT.

LGBT Life Center is pleased to share this announcement with the Hampton Roads community and is extremely proud of Karl Neumann, a long-time supporter of LGBT Life Center, for his incredible generosity and courage. “Neumann’s announcement is a huge step in tackling HIV-stigma locally, nationally, and around the globe. Only 20 years ago, an HIV diagnosis could have been considered life-ending. Now, Karl is showing us that he is a man living with HIV and giving-life to someone else. This is monumental to the HIV-positive community and community at large. Increasing the organ donor pool will be a boon for everyone,” said Stacie Walls, CEO of LGBT Life Center.

LGBT Life Center offered end of life support for women and children living with HIV/AIDS starting in 1989. Over the years, as HIV and treatment changed, the work of LGBT Life Center changed along with it. Today, LGBT Life Center offers supportive services to those living long, healthy, full lives with HIV. Services are holistic in nature, offering everything from support groups, counseling, food and nutrition, housing, medical transportation and an HIV specialty care clinic and pharmacy in Norfolk where HIV-positive individuals can receive primary care in an affirming and supportive environment.

For more information on LGBT Life Center, please visit www.lgbtlifecenter.org or call 757-640-0929.

Video footage from Duke Health can be obtained here: <https://duke.app.box.com/s/d60pz7ojtij38i9jvdebio3cey5e2npf>

Images from Duke Health can be obtained here: <https://dukehealthnews.photoshelter.com/gallery/HIV-KIDNEY-TRANSPLANT/G0000siJpSvOrj0I>

More information on Karl Neumann can be found here: <https://lgbtlifecenter.org/blog/2nd-ever-hiv-to-hiv-us-kidney-transplant-is-from-a-hampton-roads-donor/>

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**ABOUT LGBT LIFE CENTER**: LGBT Life Center was formerly known as CANDII House, Full Circle CANDII, and ACCESS AIDS Care/LGBT Center of Hampton Roads until June of 2017 when it expanded its mission and rebranded as LGBT Life Center. For 30 Years, LGBT Life Center has been a trusted leader that empowers the LGBTQ communities and all people affected by HIV through improving health and wellness, strengthening families and communities and providing transformative education and advocacy.