

Dear Family and Friends,

We are sending along this message to ask for your support with a benefit that we and Blessed Hope Church are organizing for our nephew, Jason Blixrud. As many of you know, Jason was diagnosed with lupus at age 11 and had his first kidney transplant at age 21. Thankfully, that transplanted kidney functioned well for 17 years. In the fall of 2007 Jason received a second kidney transplant from which he is still recovering. Through years of pain and suffering, Jason has never complained or asked for help. His courage and positive attitude are apparent every day. He returned to work weeks before the doctors expected.

While Jason has good medical insurance through his employer, his uninsured medical expenses have mounted. Along with lost wages and required frequent follow up visits to the University of Minnesota (from his home in Maple Lake) he and his wife Jo's finances have been severely stressed. We are hosting a fundraiser and silent auction to raise money towards these expenses.

We would also like to assist in the completion of major repair projects to Jason and Jo's home that Jason started but, due to his declining health prior to the transplant and recovery since transplant, has been physically and financially unable to complete. If you would be able to give of your time or expertise in the construction field it would be a huge gift to Jason. A couple of work weekends are being planned in the spring and your name could be added to the list of volunteers. We will show our gratitude for your help with lots of food and music!

Though we would love to have you attend Jason's event and share in the support of his parish community, we completely understand how busy all of our lives are.

We have asked for your support in many ways over the years and many of you have listened to us tell Jason's story with an occasional tear or two and have offered us your support as we've traveled this journey with him. So, it is with a small bit of hesitation that we ask for your support again, knowing that you have already provided us with a great deal of support and we thank you for that.

We hope you are able to attend our event where we will celebrate Jason's transplant, honor Jason's donor and bring awareness to the miracle of transplantation.

We look forward to seeing you. Thank you for taking the time to read this, for your continued friendship, and for supporting our family in so many ways.

*Connie Girard and Marcel Eibensteiner*

*Gloria and Gery Blaha*

*Dan Girard*

Donations can be sent to:

Jason Blixrud Donation Fund

US Bank

1001 Hwy. 96 West

Shoreview, MN 55126

Acct. No. 104777177452

(Donations can be made in person at any US Bank location)