



## A personal note

### And Many Gave . . . A Story of Giving by Scott Young

**M**any of you are aware of the remarkable path my life has taken recently. I have traveled from the absolute depths to the highest reaches. I am now living a life I once could have only dreamed.

I have Cystic Fibrosis. After several years of declining health, I became seriously ill in 1991. My lungs had deteriorated to the point where my only hope for survival was a double lung transplant. After an agonizing 14 months of waiting, I was operated on and my life will never be the same.

#### And many gave . . .

My family gave all they had to give. In addition to everyone's unending support, my parents lived apart for a year-and-a-half. Mom came to live with me in Ontario while Dad remained in Colorado. An unfathomable distance for two people so close. My brother Stephen and his wife Sandy were then expecting their first child, now a wonderful sweetheart named Bailey. They gave up much of the attention and excitement that should have been theirs at such an important time, and focused this energy on me. My girlfriend Kelly gave me her heart, unconditionally filled with love and incredible caring. Always by my side, she instilled in me the strength to continue.

#### And many gave . . .

My relatives from all over Canada sent their concerns and wishes. My friends stood by me and demonstrated the strength of our bonds. The medical professionals involved in my care gave their expertise, dedication and a genuine will to help others. The Toronto General Hospital Lung Transplant Support Group gave courage and hope I could not have found elsewhere.

#### And many gave . . .

Perhaps the most amazing gifts were from people I do not know well, if at all. Numerous individuals, church groups and other organizations of people sent their support, prayers and love in many different ways. Whether it was a simple hello through my parents or a silent thought or prayer, I sensed these gifts greatly and knew I was not alone.

#### And many gave . . .

A family who had just lost their son gave an extraordinary opportunity. The donor family did not know me, but gave something of immeasurable beauty. Their enormously generous gift of organ donation enabled me to live again. The gift of life—what a wonderful thing to give, and certainly to receive!

#### And many gave . . .

The gifts delivered to me were all links in a long chain of events which culminated in the renewal of my life and spirit. We all can give many things in our lives. Encouragement, love, hope and friendship are but a few. Imagine if everyone would give? What other chains could be created? How might the lives of others be affected? ■

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*On a personal note, I would like to thank those of you who gave so much to me. It has truly made a difference. I also ask you to seriously consider whether organ donation is a gift you might give one day. Please advise your family of your wishes, as the ultimate decision concerning the donation of your organs will rest with them.*