

# Wait for organ donations a desperate experience

By **Amanda Thibeault**  
FOR THE SUDBURY STAR

It was probably the longest 14 months of Scott Young's life.

In March 1991, Young's name went on a waiting list for a double lung transplant. He was told by his doctor that a donor had to be found within a year and half or he would die.

Diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at four years old, Young's lungs could no longer supply his body with enough oxygen.

During the months before the transplant, Young had to carry a pager with him at all times in case he received the call saying a donor had been found.

He said all he remembers about the wait was an incredible sense of desperation.

"Each day I knew I was one day closer to dying."

The call came in May 1992. A 25-year-old man from Northern Ontario had died and his family decided to donate his organs. His lungs were rushed to Young.

Eight years later, Young, 36, is doing great. He is a financial adviser and the chairman of the organ donation awareness committee for the Kidney Foundation of Canada.

"Thankfully, in that family's incredible time of grief, they had the courage to think of others," Young said.

**Please see DONORS / A4**



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Raising local awareness of the need for organ donations are Mollie Finn (left), who received a donated kidney, Mel O'Reilly, whose son, Michael, died after a 13-month wait for a set of lungs, and Scott Young, who received a double lung transplant.