

## Single mom, 35, desperately seeking kidney donor

### Bethel resident suffers from hereditary disease

By Patricia Villers

This is a story about Kellie Greenwood, a single mom who desperately needs a kidney. She and her son, who is almost 5, live in Bethel.

I've never met Kellie but I've met her father and it feels like I'm living the Six Degrees of Separation theory.

The story goes back to exactly two years ago today, May 9, 2017, when I became a kidney transplant recipient. I have [\*Polycystic Kidney Disease\*](#).

When I was told earlier that year I would soon need a kidney *two* of my sisters-in-law immediately stepped forward to donate one to me. And one was a match.

[\*Suzanne Watson\*](#), my husband's youngest sister, has universal blood type O. After much testing at Yale New Haven Hospital we learned she was a match.

But in a turn of events doctors determined that Sue's kidney was a better match for Bill Greenwood, Kellie's father. Bill also suffers from Polycystic Kidney Disease.

They told me they wouldn't give Sue's kidney to Bill unless they had a donor for me. They had one, so I signed a document giving my OK to get a kidney from an [\*altruistic donor\*](#). That person turned out to be my angel, Robin Gilmartin of West Hartford.



If Sue hadn't generously offered her kidney to me, Bill would not have received one on May 9, 2017.

I've recently learned that not only does Kellie, 35, need a kidney - she is slated to start dialysis - I also learned that she is dealing with a brain aneurysm and multiple hernias.

Her stepmother, Devon, shared this [\*link\*](#) that Kellie's mother created that details Kellie's plight.

Please consider becoming a living organ donor.

When you donate, you're giving another person a second chance to lead a healthy life!

If interested in donating, call the center for living donors at Yale New Haven Hospital, 866-925-3897. Learn more about this at these YNHH sites:

Kidney Transplants: <https://www.ynhh.org/services/kidney-transplant.aspx>

Liver Transplants: <https://www.ynhh.org/services/liver-transplant.aspx>

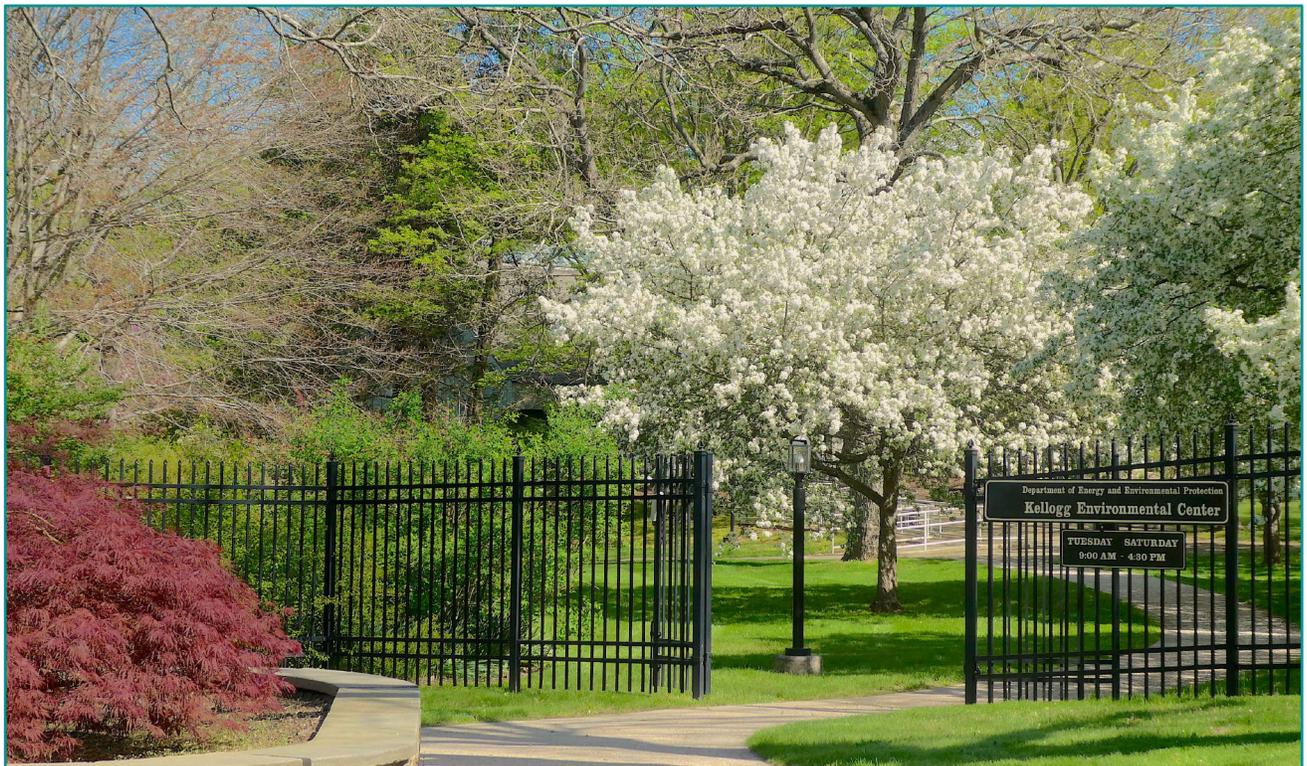


On a beautiful day, the grounds of [\*Osborne Homestead Museum\*](#) and [\*Kellogg Environmental Center\*](#) make for an ideal photography subject.

The museum was originally a house built around 1840. The Osborne family moved into the home around 1870 and she inherited the family home.

[\*Frances Osborne Kellogg\*](#) (1876-1956) deeded her property to the State of Connecticut in 1951. It became [\*Osbornedale State Park\*](#)

- Photos by Patricia Villers



## Griffin Hospital honors volunteers at annual dinner in Seymour



This year's Griffin Hospital Volunteer Scholarship winners are, from left, Michelle Antony, Amanda Bean, Britney Swanson, Lekeisha Fonseca, and Bonnie Trelease

DERBY – Griffin Hospital honored its volunteers for selflessly giving their time and talents to the hospital in 2018 at its Annual Volunteer Recognition Dinner.

A total of 328 hospital volunteers logged more than 34,900 hours last year while serving as ambassadors, candy strippers, bakers, shuttle drivers, room service, soft touch therapy providers, writers of vital patient stories and many more roles that benefited hospital patients, visitors and staff.

“Each volunteer hour represents priceless moments of caring and compassion that make Griffin so special,” said Patrick Charmel, president and CEO of Griffin Hospital. “Whether it is making fresh-baked treats for patients and caregivers who are missing home, providing healing comfort with a soft touch massage, or simply being a cheerful face and a listening ear to someone who feels lonesome or anxious – it is your unconditional kindness that makes Griffin exceptional.”



### Students honored

Griffin Hospital also awarded its annual scholarships of \$1,500 and \$1,000 to high school volunteers going on to college next school year.

For 50 years, Griffin Hospital has awarded scholarships to community students pursuing advanced education. In order to qualify for these scholarships, the students must have volunteered over 100 hours at the hospital, been in high academic standing, have been accepted into an accredited college or university, demonstrated initiative and perseverance and possess exemplary moral character.

This year's winners are Amanda Bean, of Shelton High, Michelle Antony and Britney Swanson of Masuk High, Bonnie Trelease, of Oxford High, and Lekeisha Fonseca, of Ansonia High.

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**Donations Welcome & Appreciated**



**All Proceeds will go to**

The Hewitt Center for Breast Wellness at Griffin Hospital

