

Meet Samantha!

“I try to live for my donor every day. We’ve gone on many adventures already.”

My name is Samantha Jameson. I was diagnosed with Cystic Fibrosis when I was four years old. Growing up, like most children with CF, I spent a fair amount of time in the hospital for IV antibiotics. When I was 19 years old I was told I would need a double lung transplant to prolong my life. I had caught a rare bacteria that was slowly deteriorating my already damaged lungs. I had to make a tough decision: Go on the transplant list or wait for death — which sounds dramatic, but these were my only two options. I was listed at Cleveland Clinic in January of 2011, and I waited over 4 years for my gift of life. Can’t wait for the weekend? Try waiting for a life saving transplant.

January of 2014, I caught the flu. It did so much damage to my lungs that was irreversible. I started requiring oxygen 24/7 and sleeping with a bi pap at night. I stayed in the hospital two-to-three weeks out of every month for IV antibiotics and monitoring of my condition. I went from being completely independent, to needing everyone to do everything for me. During that time I fell in love, became engaged, but also watched my health decrease. I was only using 15% of my lungs when I got the call for my transplant. I received my second chance on April 15, 2015, and the surgery ended on the 16th, my husbands birthday.

Recovery was long and hard, but most of all, it was worth it. I have two new beautiful lungs, and with them, a new life. On June 4th, 2016, Ty and I got married in front of 300 guests. Including family, friends, doctors, nurses, musicians, anchormen, and everyone who has helped us along the way.

With every new celebration — birthdays, Christmases, etc. — I think of my donor and their family. I don’t know them, but I write them every November, in hopes they will someday write me back. I pray for them every day. It hurts my heart, on days I am rejoicing, that they are feeling sadness. I am now two years post transplant, and am enjoying being married to my soulmate. I also enjoy being a dog mom to our two fur babies. I strive to inspire as a public speaker for Life Center Ohio and the CF Foundation.



The mission of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation is to cure cystic fibrosis and to provide all people with the disease the opportunity to lead full, productive lives by funding research and drug development, promoting individualized treatment and ensuring access to high-quality, specialized care.

Contact our chapter for more information on how you can support the CF Foundation:

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