

## A life saving donation

MARCH 12, 2013 | [SURI EPSTEIN - CORRESPONDENT](#)



Kathy Laszlo (left), spoke about her experience donating a kidney to the daughter of Robyn Quint (right) at a recent JUMP event, co-sponsored by Renewal Toronto and the Jewish Tribune. (Photo: Suri Epstein)

**TORONTO** - Kathy Laszlo received a call from a distressed mother three years ago that changed her life forever.

Always passionate about helping others, Laszlo was co-founder of DANI (Developing and Nurturing Independence) an organization that creates professional and social opportunities for Jewish young adults with physical or cognitive challenges.

Robyn Quint's daughter was a DANI participant and her kidneys had shut down.

"Her daughter had become extremely sick," Laszlo told an audience recently at Jewish Urban Meeting Place (JUMP). "She was in and out of hospital and didn't know what was going to happen. I imagined it was my child."

Laszlo, who has universal blood type O, immediately offered to be tested for kidney compatibility.

The results were positive and Laszlo successfully donated a kidney to Terri Quint.

Despite her remarkable actions, Laszlo doesn't consider herself a hero.

"I actually gained a lot," she said. "I was able to give a lifelong lesson to my children about tzedakah (charity), I gained an amazing family."

To her mind, Sol and Robyn Quint, their children, and specifically Terri are the real heroes of the story.

John Anhang of Renewal Toronto, an event co-sponsor, along with the Jewish Tribune, also spoke about his own experience.

Anhang donated a kidney four years ago after seeing an advertisement in a Jewish newspaper. His donation was facilitated by a New York organization called Renewal that is dedicated to saving lives through kidney donations.

"I was so impressed with what they do," Anhang said. "I felt that we needed to have an organization in Toronto that does something similar."

He works in finance, but launched Renewal Toronto as a volunteer project.

"Kidney failure is a fatal disease," he said, pointing out that there are 18 people from the Jewish community in the GTA who need a kidney.

"Young, old, male, female, some are on dialysis and some are not yet on dialysis," he said.

According to Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz, director of Renewal New York, education and awareness has a major impact on the numbers of organ donations.

"The Jewish community now has the highest rate of live altruistic donations, in the Northeastern US," he said.

Rabbi Menachem Friedman of Renewal NY concurred. A quarter of "live altruistic donations in the Northeast are done by Jews."

Just as she was inspired by a speaker years ago, Laszlo hopes that by sharing her story others will consider a life-saving kidney donation.

<http://www.jewishtribune.ca/features/2013/03/12/a-life-saving-donation>