



25 Things I Can Do Since My Transplant

By Brandy Parker: Vital Volunteer and Heart Transplant Recipient

On July 22, 2011, I was given the gift of a new heart. This gift of life has given me so much that I am not in need of anything else. It also makes materialistic gifts look so small in comparison to the love that has been shared. Through this gift, I am able to do many things that I could not do before my transplant. Here are 25 things I am now able to do because of the tremendous gift I have been given. Some of them may seem silly, but believe me when I say they ARE NOT!

1. I can breathe
2. I can walk
3. I can cook
4. I can clean the house
5. I can do the laundry
6. I can play with my kids
7. I can take a shower
8. I can go to the store
9. I can sleep
10. I can eat without being short of breath
11. I can go to my hometown and see family again
12. I can volunteer at my children's school
13. I can volunteer at the hospital
14. I can volunteer at LifeGift
15. I can go camping with my family
16. I can get out of bed
17. I can drive
18. I can be a wife again
19. I can sing and stand at church to worship
20. I can be an advocate for organ donation
21. I can help others that are in the same place I was

22. I can be present in my family and friends lives

23. I can watch my children grow

24. I can love

25 I can LIVE!

I was only supposed to list 25 things, but I have one more that I want to share:

I am now able to go and live the life that Christ has given me to show others His love and to continue to be obedient to His will instead of my own. I had prayed that the cup would pass from me, and that I not have to bear this burden any longer. The Lord has shown me that He has bigger and better plans for my life. I am absolutely amazed at how He loves us and takes care of us. He is using me in ways that I never could have imagined, and for that I am thankful for this journey!

I can never in a million years, and with the right words say how thankful I am for this gift that I have received this year. I received my ANGEL's HEART on July 22, 2011, and it is the best gift that I could have received. I am forever grateful for all the things that I am able to do now that I have gotten this gift. Please never take for granted the (little stuff) and always tell your loved one how much you love them!!

Thank you for reading my 25 things!

Brandy Parker