

2018 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS



KYLER

Kyler was diagnosed with a rare kidney disease (C1q Nephropathy) right before his freshman year in high school. His nephrologist told him he would need a kidney transplant before he graduated. During the Spring of his sophomore year, Kyler began dialysis three days a week, four hours a day. Fortunately, his mother was a donor match and he received a kidney transplant two months later, in May of 2016. Football had always been a part of Kyler's life and after his diagnosis, he was worried he would not be able to play again. After a challenging three years, he returned to the field during his senior year, with specially designed protective gear, and was able to play every game. Although he has been faced with many challenges, Kyler excelled on the field and in the classroom. He is attending the University of Mount Union in Fall 2018, studying Mechanical Engineering. He hopes to use his skills and knowledge to design and engineer systems to enhance performance in the automotive industry.



NICOLE

Nicole's parents found out she had polycystic kidney disease when she was still in utero. At just three weeks old, she began dialysis. Fortunately, her mother was a match and donated her kidney to Nicole when she was one. Her first kidney lasted for 16 years, but she then had to go back on dialysis; 3 times a week for 4 hours each, for a year and half. In April of 2018 Nicole received her second kidney transplant. The biggest lesson Nicole has learned from her diagnosis is that you cannot be bound to what you can't do; you have to learn to work with you can do! As of 2019, Nicole is currently getting her Associates degree in Nursing and an EMT license at Lorain County Community College in hopes of helping others when they are in need.



MARIA

Maria was born in Guatemala, and adopted as a baby. She grew up with many siblings, and very supportive parents. She was diagnosed with kidney failure, and fortunately, after two years of dialysis, received a kidney from a deceased donor. During her hospital stays, Maria realized she wanted to work in the healthcare field when she grew up. She decided on becoming a nurse so that she can provide comfort and care to those in need, like she received from her nurses. She would especially love to work with renal patients. As of 2019, Maria is attending Lakeland Community College to receive her Bachelors Degree in Nursing to help this dream become reality. In addition to her professional career, she hopes to continue to return to Guatemala through mission trips to provide medical care to the small villages like the one in which she was born.