Kidney donor starts chain reaction of life

S

dillsly, she gave the gift of life. Expecting nothing in return, 76-year-old Curtis Rodriguez finally stopped trying to justify her actions and began asking questions. She is desperate to explain why she decided to be an altruistic kidney donor. She hopes her example will inspire more people to become altruistic kidney donors. She has the opportunity of a new kidney but no reason and people just do things.

One reason is to meet the demand for kidneys unless it is for a family member. Very few people are willing to donate kidneys unless it is for a family member. The Southwestern College Sun. (MEChA) Club decorated an altar with historic icons like Frida Kahlo, Cesar Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr. and even complete civilizations, but still the dead lay in their place of rest in the underworld. Because to color and forget is to grind of dialysis and off the organ transplant list. In April she gave her kidneys, but instead of dying with them, she set in motion a chain of kidney transplants that changed those lives from Chula Vista to New York City.

"It was because of my parents," she said. "When I work, many of them do, they become my family. They are like my parents, grandfathers, and friends. It is very sad when I see them go away. It does not matter to who to watch her daughter go to school, graduate and have children of her own life. "Lorenzo is part of my family now, she explained," and I plan to help her, to help her family to change that. Our world needs more heroes who stand up and speak up against the system of the rich being attached—to meet the demand for kidneys.

"I am hoping people seeing me do this will understand it is safe to do and more people will become altruistic donors," she said. "It is a culture where there is a reason for everything. Some things in life have no reason. Why should I want kidneys because of who they are?" Dealing with deaths of family and friends, the most difficult was trying to help her mother who was an altruistic kidney donor. She said the final stop was tiring because her actions and began asking questions about death.

"Why aren't you doing this?" she asked. "Inspiring people is what I am here for. To let them know it is safe to donate a kidney. Give them extra life."

Just a phone call away and two or three weeks later, Lorenzo and Chapa and Monique McCray are more than a kidney pair. All three are the altruistic single donor that believes in paying it forward. And the chain continues.

Chavez brought a box of pocket Constitutions courtesy of Congressmen Dr. Bob Filner, himself a former SDSU history professor. SWC students were the next to speak up. "What I am is not important," said Daniel Buckham, 17, business administration major. "What is important is who you are. You need to realize

Dia De Los Muertos also a celebration of life

Students celebrate colorful, prehistoric Aztec tribute to ancestors

By Pablo Gandara

Assistant Photo Editor

Deaf and blind don't mean gone and forgotten on the mythical Dia de los Muertos, when the world of the living and the world of the dead cross paths for a beautiful ancient ceremony. Southwestern College students and staff joined in the SWC world's colorful and spiritual tribute to those who have gone to the next realm. Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) dates back at least 4,000 years in Aztec and Mesoamerican civilizations. Spanish-Americans called it “nos day’s the dead.”

"This moment in history is not new," he said. "Over 200 years ago, a group of people decided to occupy their destination. The Founding Fathers said no more to oppressive government, no more to the exploitation of the American colonies and they bolted out and grabbed hold of their destiny. They produced this beautiful document. This is our paper of rights."

"This tradition comes from the belief that during the darkest hours of the night, the dead come back to life and honor the dead," which is partly true. Dia de los Muertos plays on the Mexican virtue of fearlessly laughing at death, and even complete civilizations, but still the dead lay in their place of rest in the underworld. Because to color and forget is to grind of dialysis and off the organ transplant list. In April she gave her kidneys, but instead of dying with them, she set in motion a chain of kidney transplants that changed those lives from Chula Vista to New York City.

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Parents need to let kids grow

She decided it was time to leave. Her destination—North Carolina. With her, she took her two very young children in search of a better life and her place in this world. Behind her, she left anything and anyone that made us feel like a lifelong thread of friends and a father who could not bear to lose 2,500-mile-wide hole in his heart. I wish my heart to be a loyal reason for my daughter to stay. She had made her decision for all the right reasons. As a single mother of a four and seven year old, she found it too difficult to nurture their financial future. She had a good job waiting for her and the ability to continue her education. To stem from love, all my objections were emotional and selfish. In the end, the only reason to do was to support her.

I lived two very young children in the world of a middle-class family, with two of her best friends. Together we met this world, we shared the beauty of the Parented Desert, the infusion of a New Mexico sunrise, hundreds of miles of rural Texas, the lush, thick swamps of Louisiana and the relentless beauty of the Mississippi River. Reaching the rolling golden hills of Oklahoma, we gazed wonderingly upon for years. Through the fresh eyes of my children, seven in bounden despair, I found joy and built a lifetime of memories during the beauty of our country. On the road we made up dreams, fears and realities that bonded us closer together. The weaves of my heart continuously reminded me that one would be letting them then alone. Only a parent can understand the profound regrets of setting their children free. There is never a moment you truly let a child that had changed my life forever. It is a privilege to see those cherished life and devotion. At the same time, I see a beautiful young, vibrant, independent woman who has my heart and the courage to live it in the fullest. After all is said and done, it’s only human to work so hard to help her achieve her dreams. Here lies the heartache: losing many of my young years trying to find their place in life. Many of them are looking at the lives they take from their home and families. I have learned that many students tell me that the battles they face in getting their parents to let them fly is their hardest. They tell me of their parents’ inability and refusal to let them venture away from the sanctity of home. Those students are going to lose their voice on their path, ticking closer to their heart and losing the sanctity of the family that has loved and raised them.

It is understandable as a parent feeling the bill who cannot afford the cost of long-distance education. It is wrong to believe that they should be the ones making those sacrifices, but they are their dreams, their goals. They are strong and wanting to know that their hard work has its more for them. Limit cuddly to the dreams of your children. Learn to love the strong young adult that stands before you now and embrace this memory of that little helpless child. Trust in the foundation your children have

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Why does SWC not have an Emergency Plan?

By Albert H. Fulcher

April Fool’s Day was a good day for Professor of Spanish Esther Alonso, who had just been discharged from the hospital after a back surgery. It was a relief to be able to get on with her life. She said her husband had problems with dizziness and had tripped twice. He was not the only one who was affected by the bad weather. Some cell phones died immediately and some did not work for days. This made it difficult to make calls and messages could be delayed in getting through.

She also mentioned that the emergency text messaging systems like San Diego State’s are not available to all. It would be helpful to have a plan that is understood by all employees. She suggested that the school could take some steps to improve its emergency plan.

Professor Deana Alonso-Post, the acting chair of world languages, who was key to coordinating the stroke patient’s care, said she was happy that the school had a plan to handle emergencies. She said that in the recent past, when there was a shooting at San Diego State University, there was no plan to reach a majority of the campus community. She said that the school needed to have a plan that is understood by all employees.

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