



CHEROKEE NATION

P.O. Box 948 • Tahlequah, Okla. 74465 • (918) 456-0671

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief

John A. Ketcher
Deputy Chief

January 25, 1993

Helen Harrison
521 South Muskogee
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Dear Ms. Harrison:

Since you called my office on December 7, 1992, I have tried repeatedly to reach you by telephone

I wanted to discuss with you my brother's experience with donating a kidney. My brother had very little experience with the medical profession, was rarely ill and the hospitalization for tests and then later the donation of his kidney was very traumatic and sometimes frightening for him. However, he never wavered from his decision to donate the kidney.

His donation has enabled me to lead a full and active life. He also continues to lead a full life. He has a dairy farm in California and also works full time and frequently works overtime. He has not had any adverse effects as a result of donating the kidney.

The up side of donating a kidney is that having a kidney from a living related donor greatly increases the likelihood that the kidney will not be rejected. For the donor, it creates a special bond between the donor and the recipient.

The only down side for the donor is that the hospitalization and convalescence will require time away from the job and family and, as with most surgeries, there is discomfort from the surgery for a couple of weeks afterward.

If I can answer any other questions, please call me at home at (918) 696-4552.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Wilma P. Mankiller
Principal Chief