

November 27, 2018

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

May 25, 2009---My heart stopped while I was frying chicken. My husband and son performed CPR, the Astoria rescue Squad came, a helicopter landed in my yard, and then transported me to OSF. Dr. Best became my doctor and I was unaware of what was happening for several days. The theory was a virus attacked my heart. We hoped it would repair itself, but my condition worsened.

I made many trips to Peoria for visits with Dr. Best, many tests, procedures and consultations. In 2010, the process to get on the heart transplant list began. Thus began trips to University of Chicago Medical Center. I was able to have many of the pre-heart plant tests in Peoria under Dr. Best's guidance.

On April 4, 2014, I received the call that there was a heart available just for me. My new heart was 'transplanted' shortly after midnight at Chicago, where I stayed for several weeks so I would not have to make the long trips back to Chicago for the required biopsies & tests to follow. After three months, I was permitted to have the procedures at OSF with Dr. Best and his team at Heartcare Midwest monitoring my progress and anti-rejection medicines.

Currently, most of my follow ups are in Peoria with an annual day or two in Chicago. Anything that can be done in Peoria is such a blessing to me and my family. We are a little over an hour from Peoria and about four hours from Chicago. Chicago sometimes requires overnight stays.

Having heart transplant services in Peoria/OSF would be such an asset to our area eliminating much of the stress on the patient and their families.

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