Mary H. Wu

Mary Wu, a longtime member of TSO, joined the board in 2013, and we immediately realized the energy, creativity, and heart of this lovely and dynamic young woman. Mary calls herself an “old soul who is a child at heart” and we could not agree with her more. In getting to know Mary, you quickly realize the level of dedication and commitment in someone so young. Her accomplishments are astounding and we are awed by her energy and resourcefulness. She is a compelling and talented communicator and story teller who has effectively used her experiences to deliver the message of organ donation and the journey of transplantation.

Mary is an American born woman of Chinese descent. She has a BA in the Psychology of Communications from Manhattanville College where, as we would expect from Mary, she graduated with a 3.9 GPA. Mary is a published writer, a public speaker, a counselor to transplant patients, a legislative advocate, an advocate, a volunteer, and a leader in the transplant community. And she does it all while holding down a full time position at Memorial Sloan Kettering’s Cancer Center. Mary’s most recent accomplishments include the publication of her very successful autobiography, “Confessions of a Kidney Transplant Recipient,” receiving the 2013 Adult Arthritis Ambassador Award from the Arthritis Foundation, and appearing on the transplant float at the Parade of Roses in Pasadena in 2012. These accomplishments are accompanied by numerous well deserved awards and recognition for her work on behalf of organ donation, transplantation, and related health issues.

Mary is a very talented writer who has been writing since very young and who has had several of her short stories and essays published over the years. Her work as a blogger gives you insight into her daily struggles and reminds you that her life gave her wisdom beyond her young 26 years. Mary was diagnosed with Renal Agenesis at the age of 3. She received her first transplant at the age of 5 after years on hemodialysis. Her second transplant occurred in 1995 following a difficult experience with rejection and failed treatments. Most recently, on 4/10/13, Mary underwent a hip replacement caused by her complicated Osteoarthritis and to our amazement in December, Mary danced at our Celebration of Life Holiday party. Mary does not allow herself to be defined by her health issues rather she turns her experiences and challenges into opportunities to help others and uses herself as an example of all that is possible. More than once I have read blogs by Mary when she is having a bad day and it always ends with a positive note in her belief that tomorrow will be better.

Mary shares her gifts with various organizations. In TSO she has become a very valuable board member. She is also a Youth Circle Co-Leader for TRIO, a Trans-action Council Board member for the National Kidney Foundation, a speaker with Transplant Speaker’s International, an arthritis ambassador with the Arthritis Foundation, a member of the Renal Support Network and a volunteer with the New York Organ Donor Network.

We are so honored to have Mary focus some of her energies to TSO. We expect much from her and we know that she will surpass our expectations that is who Mary is. That smile, her kindness, and her talents make Mary a most exceptional human being. Thank you, Mary, for being you.