



Double Lung Transplant 08-12-2016

Karen Carlson lives in East Berlin. She has worked as a furniture manufacturer's representative for over 35 years and previous to that, as an interior designer. Karen and her husband, Jim have been married for 27 years and have a daughter, Vivian, 24 years old.

Karen is a double lung transplant recipient. Her transplant journey is unique. She was diagnosed late in life with Cystic Fibrosis and with her health deteriorating quickly, more infections, shortness of breath and generally not feeling well, she was quickly put on new medications, started new treatments and was recommended for double lung transplant evaluation based her pulmonary function scores.

After waiting almost four years, being listed at New York Presbyterian and Brigham & Women's in Boston, it was clear there was little hope for available lungs that matched her criteria in the Northeast. Karen and her husband had no choice but to put their careers on hold, relocate to Durham, NC with the hope that Duke University Hospital would find those new lungs and find them quickly. Fortunately, she only waited 2 ½ months after being listed for the perfect pair.

Once Karen recovered well enough, they were able to move back to Connecticut and restart their lives, humbly and gratefully, thanks to her generous donor's lungs. She now volunteers for Donate Life and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is a mentor for the Lung Transplant Foundation, helping spread the word about organ donation registration.

She and her husband are participating in Donate Life Connecticut's Dancing for Donations Gala. If you would like to vote for them, please visit: [www.donatelifect.org](http://www.donatelifect.org). It is \$1 per vote. And while you are there, please register as an organ, eye and tissue donor, if you have not already!



**KAREN A CARLSON**  
52 Stony Mill Lane  
860-655-4504 | kcarlson90@comcast.net