



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SOUTH LAND TITLE PAIR PART OF HISTORIC, LIFE-SAVING SURGERY

We are proud of our South Land Title family but are overwhelmed by the incredible story and connection between two special individuals from our Bryan-College Station office. Plant manager Dawn Thomas gave one of her team members, examiner Debra Lewing, a second chance at life when Dawn found out Debra had a failing kidney.

"I have battled kidney disease for about 15 years and recently at the end of 2019 went into End Stage Renal Failure – Stage IV. At, this point I was sent to Houston Methodist to be placed on the waiting list for a kidney. In early 2020, as my doctor was preparing me for dialysis, I was doing everything I could to avoid it, then COVID-19 began to break out in our area. It was a very critical time for me if I were to contract the COVID virus it could be fatal for me," said Debra.

So Dawn, without hesitation, offered one of her kidneys.

"I asked her what would it take to stop her from going on dialysis. She said a kidney. I offered mine. Not sure she believed me so we agreed to think about it," said Thomas. "After about a week of research, thought and prayers I told her let's do this!"

Dawn made multiple trips down to Houston Methodist and went thru all the vigorous testing to be a donor to see if they were a match for a kidney transplant. Unfortunately, she was not a match.

Luckily, that wasn't how this story ended. Dawn wasn't ready to give up hope on her employee and friend and offered to be entered into a swap program that could potentially match her with someone else that could provide a match for Debra as well.

Despite the restrictions caused by COVID-19, the doctors at Houston Methodist were able to match them up with four other kidney patients and their donors to do a RARE 5-way Swap!

The historic surgery that matched 5 patients with 5 donors over two full days of surgery was featured last month in the *Houston Chronicle*. Read it here: [Magnolia couple saves 5 lives with Houston Methodist kidney swap](#)

"Dawn is a selfless, giving and sweet person, that I cannot ever put into words how grateful I am to her for her friendship and the sacrifice she has made to help me," said Debra. "It's truly a MIRACLE from God how this all came about and worked out! God is good!"

"It definitely is an honor to be a part of," said Dawn. "I am humbled to be a part of God's plan with this because clearly He had big plans!"



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To say we are proud of the courage and determination of these two would be an understatement. They are the embodiment of the values we hold dear in our business and families. They are an inspiration to us all and we could not be more grateful to have them healthy and part of our South Land Title family!



1 – South Land Title Examiner Debra Lewing (left) and Dawn Thomas (right) prior to surgery.

2 - Dawn (left) and Debra (right) recovering post-surgery

3 - Dawn walking through the halls of Houston Methodist post-surgery



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