

Dear Friends,

Each of you have been very wonderful friends to Cara and me while we were preparing for and away having my kidney transplant. The process was much more painful than I expected, not from the transplant, but from the removal of my old kidneys. Cara leaned on her friends to help her get our house ready to sell and get our townhouse ready while she was amazing at taking care of me. You contributed in so many ways while we were gone.

Moreover, the process was much more arduous and painful than I expected for my donor, Dax Slate. I did not anticipate how much he would have to take off work, go through multiple medical procedures, and endure continuing pain and weakness for 4-5 weeks after the transplant. Dax had only met me twice, but he chose to make an extraordinary sacrifice simply because "I heard that you, Mr. Looper, were a good man, ... and I believe that when you can help someone, you should." Attached is the article that I put in our hometown newspaper describing his sacrifice, and the sacrifice of his girlfriend, Crystal Plowman, to be his caretaker during the procedures.

Many of you have tried to do something for me, so I am asking a favor to help us "Pay It Forward" to help Dax and Crystal. They plan to soon move in together and possibly move, in part to take care of Crystal's daughter, Iva. Dax has never asked for anything. But Cara learned about a need while in the waiting room with Crystal.

Iva Plowman, 8, has a rare dental disease called Amelogenesis Imperfecta ("AI"), a disease that is hereditary from her father. You can read about it on the NORD (National Organization of Rare Disorders) website-- <https://rarediseases.org/rare-diseases/amelogenesis-imperfecta/> -- . With AI, enamel never grows, or improperly forms, on the child's teeth. It causes weird shaped teeth, causes unsightly gaps and teeth to fall out, causes yellowing or browning of remaining teeth and is incurable, lasting through adulthood. Even eating an apple is difficult. Iva has been dealing with the cruelty of children at school, often coming home in tears because of merciless teasing of her yellow and brown and missing teeth. It already has damaged her self-confidence.

The only treatment for this disease is capping the remaining teeth in childhood and then capping or placing veneers on mature teeth at some point after the age of 12. Often, implants are necessary as part of this process. As most of you know, these are expensive procedures beyond the reach of Crystal or Dax. So, we would like to "Pay it Forward" and help Iva.

We are starting a nonprofit, charitable 501 organization called the "**Dax Slate Amelogenesis Imperfecta Foundation**" to help Crystal's daughter and Dax's soon-to-be step daughter. The Foundation will be formed to pay for dental work for children with AI. The first child helped will be Iva. Out of gratitude, Cara and I could pay for this. But we want to demonstrate to Dax how many people were aware of his amazing sacrifice and unselfish generosity, as well as Crystal's sacrifice and commitment to helping us, even asking her children to join on this journey to be without Mom for her time in Baltimore. Dax and Crystal were truly Good Samaritans, and heroes. So I am asking each of you to contribute \$20/50/100 to the Foundation so that we can show Dax and Crystal how many people appreciated their gift and sacrifices.

Each person choosing to donate will receive a letter receipt for the tax-deductible contribution. The Foundation's initial Board of Directors will consist of Dax's mother, Tami Slate, Cara, and Joan Erickson. We expect that NORD will help us grow the Foundation ultimately to assist other children and attract contributions from families and friends of other children with this rare disorder. Plus, there are many charities that have as their goal to assist other smaller charities helping underprivileged children with educational and medical needs.

Cara and I have sincerely appreciated your texts, emails, calls, help while we were away. And we will appreciate these donations to generate a large number of contributors both to show Dax our collective appreciation and also to initiate this Foundation for Iva and other children with her disorder, to help her and them lead a normal child's life, to play and learn with freedom and the absence of self-consciousness.

With Appreciation,

Don Looper