

Media Release

Attention human story and community reporters/editors

An Organ Donation That Inspires Service Leadership

Elora ON | August 28/23 | For Immediate Release In a world in need of good news, Emma Smith's story emerges as a beacon of hope, compassion, and true service leadership. Her decision to donate a kidney to her life partner is an act of profound love and a symbol of what service truly means.

Emma's journey began in early 2022, with medical appointments and deep reflections knowing that her life partner Ben, needed a new kidney. Unlike the gestures of kindness that we often encounter in daily life, Emma's decision to start exploring donor compatibility was the result of a thoughtful and intentional process that took into consideration the physical and emotional risks involved. Her act transcends kindness, embodying the true essence of service—a two-way partnership grounded in empathy, authenticity, and compassion.

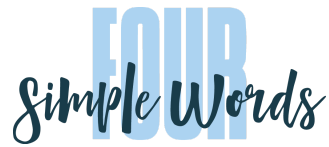
“At the beginning, I'd only known this person for three months when I started the process,” Emma quietly shares. “That was it. This is why, before I told people I was doing this, it was so important I work through this and said, okay, this isn't like you're doing it for your mother or your father. This is someone who you just started dating. I had to ask are you going to still be okay with what you've done in a few years? And everything inside me kept pointing toward yes, this is what I wanted to do. I wanted to help my partner. I believe our paths crossed at the right time for many reasons.”

Emma's story is featured in a [comprehensive paper](#) by the Service Leaders at [FourSimpleWords.ca](#). This study showcases how the power of service transforms lives and organizations and emphasizes the importance of organ donorship.

Behind the research lies Curt Hammond, an Elora-based consultant and thought leader committed to promoting the power of service. Through ongoing research and analysis, Four Simple Words is exploring the impact of service on both individual lives and broader societal structures.

FourSimpleWords.ca

Transforming lives and organizations through service



“Emma's story was an opportunity to explore the distinctions between kindness and service,” reflected Curt. “This is a question we hear a lot of in our training. And to be clear, both are good! Kindness is given on our own terms and does not involve a lot of personal risk. Service, however, requires more commitment and personal involvement. Emma's story exemplifies how true service demands a deeper understanding, partnership, and willingness to take emotional risks.”

“Almost six months to the day from the surgery I’m back to my regular hard-working routine and healthier than most people out there,” reflected Emma. “Ben is well on his way to recovery too. The math is really simple: in exchange for two months of not feeling well, I was able to save someone's life. That is a pretty great return on my time.”

In sharing her journey, Emma invites us to reflect on how we approach our relationships and contributions to others. Her story is a call to action and a reminder that everyone can step into true service, at home, in the community and at our places of work.

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About Four Simple Words

Four Simple Words is building a movement to transform organizations and lives through the power of service. We have seen the future and it is demanding we embrace service as a way to heal ourselves, build sustainable relationships and solve our 21st-century problems. This case study is a gift from Emma and Ben about what it means to be in service to others. Learn more about the four simple words and our passion for service at [FourSimpleWords.ca](https://foursimplewords.ca)

Emma’s Service In Action white paper can be found here:

https://foursimplewords.ca/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Service_In_Action_NL_Smith_Final.pdf An approved photo of Emma and Ben is attached.

For more information and to arrange an interview with Emma or Curt please contact:

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