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Patrick Sullivan participates in the 2010 U.S. Transplant Games Madison—Wisconsin

Our brother Patrick Sullivan stopped off in Madison, Wisconsin on his way back to Japan after vacation to attend the "U.S. Transplant Games" as a member of "Team Liberty" of the metro NY-NJ-Conn area.

As a living kidney donor [8 years ago], Patrick was invited to offer the Invocations at the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. He also competed [with honor, but no medals] in the 5 km run, the 100 yard dash.

Pat enjoyed the hospitality of the Capuchin brothers of San Damiano Community in Madison and also had the pleasure of meeting Capuchin Gerry Pehler who donated a kidney to his brother more than 20 years ago.

Gerry attended the closing ceremonies and his brother [the kidney recipient] competed as part of "Team Wisconsin" with his wife and daughter cheering him on. The "Transplant Games" are held every two years in a different city.



Top: "Team Liberty" of the Metro New York-New Jersey-Connecticut area [transplant recipients and living donors]. Pat-second row-5th from the right;

Above: Pat finishes the 5 km race



Invocation at the Opening Ceremonies

"As we gather here, O God, we first thank you for the gift of life: the life that you give to us and the life that we try to share with one another. In these Games we celebrate this gift of life.

We thank you for the generosity of those who share the gift of life with others through the donation of organs or tissues, both during life and after death. We thank you for the spirit which enables grieving families to share the gift of life with others even in their sadness for the death of loved ones.

We thank you for the dedication and skill of the doctors, nurses, pharmacists, scientists, medical professionals and technicians, transplant awareness promoters and volunteers who work so hard to share the gift of life.

And we ask your help:

- Help us all to live well the gift of life we have.
- Help the medical and pharmaceutical researchers to find even better ways to share the gift of life.
- Help all the donor families in their grieving. May the gift of life they have generously shared be a source of comfort in their pain.
- Help all people to be generous in sharing the gift of life.

We offer you these Games as a celebration of life. May these days here together be a source of joy, strength and comfort to all. Amen."

