

Waiting '08

Keeping Life Normal on the Waiting List in '08



Spending nine hours at home each night on dialysis, Olethia has no life after 8:30 pm. However, that does not keep her from running after her ten-year-old daughter, Jamesha, who swims, runs track, plays basketball, sings in the choir, and plays clarinet in the school band. Olethia also works full-time as a supervisor with the United States Postal Service.

An inspiration to all around her, Olethia vows to “keep living and keep doing what I’m doing. I was living before this happened, why stop now?” She wants to show her daughter “you can’t give up. You learn to keep going and not dwell on the situation.”

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Olethia wants a new kidney, but knows “it will happen when it is supposed to happen.” She is currently on the transplant waiting list at Barnes-Jewish Hospital. In the meantime, she is up for whatever Jamesha decides to do next.