



Angel Galban's

STORY OF HOPE

Second chances in life should never be taken for granted. Angel Galban, a 58-year-old Orange County, NY, resident, knows this firsthand. In November 2022, he received a double-lung transplant after battling pulmonary fibrosis, a devastating disease that scars the lungs and makes breathing nearly impossible. Thanks to his donor hero, Angel was given the gift of life just when time was running out.

Angel's journey began in 2017 with what seemed like a routine cold, but it quickly progressed into bronchitis, pneumonia, and eventually a diagnosis of pulmonary fibrosis—the same disease that had claimed his mother's life at just 46 years old. For five years, experimental treatment slowed the disease, but by April 2022, Angel's condition had worsened so much that he was placed on the transplant waiting list. By November, he was hospitalized and told he had only days to live unless a donor match could be found.

On November 15, after two false alarms, Angel's doctors delivered miraculous news: They had found a match. Following a 12-hour double lung transplant at Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx and months of recovery with the steadfast support of his wife, Sylvia, Angel regained his strength and returned to the life he thought he had lost.

Today, Angel cherishes every moment—running with his grandchildren, traveling with Sylvia to visit family, and celebrating milestones like weddings and graduations. He even fulfilled a dream of driving a sports car on a racetrack.

Grateful for his second chance, Angel is committed to honoring his donor by raising awareness about organ donation. "As someone helped me and my family by giving me this gift of life, it's my job now to help others," he said.

Angel hopes his story inspires others to register as organ, eye, and tissue donors and bring hope to the nearly 8,000 patients in New York State waiting for lifesaving transplants. Register today at donatelifenys.org/register.