

Stouffville Sun-Tribune

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THURSDAY FOCUS

Thanks to his cousin's liver, Woody Campkin went 'from death's door to a healthy 20-year-old'



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Stouffville's Woody Campkin (left) received a liver transplant March 31, thanks to his cousin, Musselman's Lake resident Cameron Amos. They're both home now and telling their story to encourage others to become organ donors. To find out how, see story on page 9.

COUSIN TO COUSIN

BY ALYSHIA HIGGINS

Stephen 'Woody' Campkin is getting something most organ patients never receive: a second chance.

The Stouffville man received three quarters of his cousin's liver at Toronto General Hospital March 31. And, he's doing better than ever.

"He went from death's door to a healthy 20-year-old," his wife, Eileen, said.

Mr. Campkin and his cousin, Cameron Amos, are both "recovering well" after the major surgery and are back at home. Mr. Amos, a Musselman's Lake area resident, was released within a week of the surgery, while Mr. Campkin returned home about two weeks ago.

Mr. Campkin said he contracted Hepatitis C more than 25 years ago through a blood transfusion and only five years ago realized how ill he really was.

When he realized he needed a liver transplant, his brother stepped up, but, due to an illness, was unable to follow through.

It was then Mr. Amos stepped in and offered his liver.

"Some things are just meant to be and this was. I was a perfect match," Mr. Amos.

Both men agreed their families played a huge role in making it a positive experience.

"Our whole family has been rallying behind us," said Mr. Amos.

"We're a pretty tightly knit bunch," Mr. Campkin said. "When it comes down to the crunch, we always pull together."

Mr. Campkin's second chance doesn't come

Help trying to get into Myanmar

Aid to disabled focus of blind mission

BY JIM MASON
 Staff Writer

A Whitchurch-Stouffville mission is ready to help the least fortunate in cyclone-devastated areas of Myanmar.

It just has to get into the country.

An assessment team from Christian Blind Mission was to arrive Monday in the southeast Asian country, also known as Burma, to initiate a first response to Cyclone Nargis that struck May 2.

But delays in processing visas have them waiting in Thailand.

"I am still trying to enter Myanmar with my CBM team to assess how CBM can help these poor people of Myanmar," Valerie Scherrer, the mission's emergency manager, said yesterday afternoon. "(It's due to) tight governmental control over issuing of visas and receiving help from the outside.

"It is a challenge for all (non-government organizations) and I believe CBM will be able to use funds raised for Myanmar for mid and long-term support for people with disabilities. It will take time to know how funds can best be used efficiently and effectively in Myanmar."

The death toll is between 68,833 and 127,990; the International Red Cross reported yesterday.

Heavy rains and another potentially powerful storm were headed toward the cyclone-devastated

See **VISA**, page 8.

See **THIS**, page 9.

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